

I write to oppose to the proposed Comcast-NBC merger. Insufficiently regulated corporate power is a threat to us all,

"(A corporation has) neither body to jail nor soul to damn." - Lord Edward Thurlow (1731-1806)

"Property monopolized or in the possession of a few is a curse to mankind." - John Adams
(unregulated, corporations will simply acquire more and more wealth and power)

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. ... corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed." - attributed to A. Lincoln in a letter to Col. William F. Elkins, Nov. 21, 1864.

"It is our job to make women unhappy with what they have." B. Earl Puckett, - Allied Stores Corp.
1953

"Corporations, which previously had been considered artificial entities with no rights, were accorded all the rights of persons, and far more, since they are 'immortal persons', and 'persons' of extraordinary wealth and power. Furthermore, they were no longer bound to the specific purposes designated by State charter, but could act as they choose, with few constraints." - Noam Chomsky

"The corporation is an externalizing machine (moving its operating costs to external organizations and people), in the same way that a shark is a killing machine." - Robert Monks (2003) GOP candidate for Senate from Maine and corporate governance adviser in the film "The Corporation"

... and most especially in the electronic media.

"Information (not money) is the currency of (true) democracy." - Thomas Jefferson

"The preservation of the means of knowledge among the lowest ranks is of more importance to the public than all the property of the rich men in the country." - John Adams

"A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." - James Madison (We must protect ourselves against a greedy but knowledgeable few manipulating the ignorant many for the benefit of the few.)

"In each cultural era, the medium in which information is recorded and transmitted is decisive in

determining the character of that culture." - Marshall McLuhan (1911-80)

"The 20th century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: The growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy." - Alex Carey, social scientist, 1995

"The greatest threat to democracy is the increasing concentration of major electronic media in ever fewer hands." - Rep. David Price (D-NC)

A merger of this size would give one company unprecedented control over media content and platforms. It would allow the largest cable and Internet access provider to control one of the nation's largest media companies. It would also give Comcast-NBC an incentive to prioritize its own online content over other content and stifle the free flow of Internet traffic.

That's too much power for one company, and it threatens competition and innovation at a moment when new forms of online video delivery are emerging.

This merger would negatively affect competition and prompt a new wave of media consolidation as other companies scramble to match Comcast-NBC's market power, making these problems even worse.

A bigger, more powerful Comcast will do nothing to address the pressing need for better media in our communities and our democracy. The FCC must stop this merger.