

To FCC Commissioners Genachowski, Clyburn and McDowell:

It is amazing that in this day and age, where the majority of readership is looking for alternatives to good media content outside of the mainstream media, that the FCC would actually consider lifting the ban on media monopolies. Haven't we learned anything from Citizens United, which has amounted to a monopoly for the moneyed?

Do you realize that there is already an invisible monopoly that has transformed much of our mainstream media into nothing more than cheerleaders for those who pay their bills? To get decent information, people such as myself have to go outside of the US to independent new sources and even other citizens to get valuable, pertinent, and complete coverage of important stories. Much of what we can find outside of the US isn't even covered by the mainstream media in the US.

If you want engaged citizens who really do want to know what is going on in this connected world so that we can all work together to solve many of our pressing global problems such as racism, war, poverty, climate problems, corruption throughout all levels of society, and so much more, then you must keep the ban in place. It was put there for a reason, and that reason is still very much alive today.

We are already seeing unprecedented manipulation by those who have money and power in putting a stranglehold on all forms of media so that a biased conversation is the only one to be allowed. This is not what the media is here for. Great media is a free and democratic media.

We need to have extensive well-rounded sources of information that allow us to make educated decisions. That will never happen if these types of monopolies are allowed to flourish because the moneyed influence has the ability to not only control the dialogue to their own benefit, but to also change the definitions of legality with their reach going into our very governments and legal institutions. News Corp is a graphic example of what a media monopoly will look like, and they are under investigation for corruption. That should tell you something about the destructive intent of monopolies.

I implore you to do what is right for the protection of the many. You are not only the watcher against impropriety, but you are the protector of ALL of our voices and not just those who can afford to pay to drown out those they don't like hearing. A free market has no place for monopolies. Please keep the ban in place.

Regards,

Carolyn Brajkovich

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