

To FCC Commissioners Genachowski, Clyburn and McDowell:

I implore you to maintain the current laws that offer only limited protection from mega−media organizations. Already, in America, we rely heavily on media content (especially news) that is provided by too few players in the industry. To allow such further consolidation erodes the fundamental right to hear free speech, not just utter it.

I am writing this letter from Hong Kong after brief trips to China. I witnessed first−hand what happens when the editorial privilege is exercised. When the Hong Kong news channel came up to a story on the recent assault on civilians in Syria, after a few seconds of content, the programming suddenly switched to an American reality TV show and back to the news when the Syrian piece ended. The prior day the same thing happened, only the TV was blacked out with static.

When so few organizations control what we Americans see and hear, the editorial privilege is tantamount to censorship, only we will not ever know it because too few editors will decide in advance. No censor button is necessary.

Please consider this plea for protection of not only the right to speak freely, but the right to hear free speech. Without both, one has neither.

Regards,

Richard Mowery, Esq.

United States of America