

FOX Noise proved the conservative media was one big racket when in 2003 Fox successfully argued in court that the “First Amendment gives broadcasters the right to lie or deliberately distort news reports on the public airwaves” ever since then Fox News has become a right wing Comedy Central. We should restore the Fairness Doctrine requiring equal air time for differing viewpoints. Equal air time for playing diverse points of view is important. How the FCC can justify yet again loosening media ownership rules when former FCC Chairmen Michael Powell (son of former General and Secretary of State Collin Powell) and Kevin J. Martin tried and failed to get either Congressional or public support for it. Furthermore, the courts ordered the FCC to conduct studies on minority and independent ownership in the media before making such attempts in future. A new FCC report showcasing insufficient minority ownership has been released and given the disturbing findings in this report it would be disastrous to allow more media consolidation as that would make the problem worse. There are already an insufficient number of independent media owners who are women or people of color. Allowing more consolidation would make the problem highlighted in this report worse. Also in the Internet era more consolidation means more gatekeeper control of the Internet. What is the FCC thinking letting Rupert Murdoch’s company News Corp., which already owns Fox News in the U.S., the Wall Street Journal newspaper, New York Post and some TV stations in Los Angeles buy the LA Times or Chicago Tribune. Allowing one company that owns a TV station in one market to also own the newspaper is bad for democracy