

*Horizontal media ownership* rules need to be *re-established and strengthened* and the *cross ownership ban maintained not weakened*. Yet FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski last winter was proposing in secret to hold an FCC vote during the holidays to gut those rules and give big media a very big gift. This despite past Congressional and public opposition when former Chairmen Michael Powell and Kevin J. Martin during former President George W. Bush's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> terms in office tried to gut the cross ownership ban. Despite the emergence of the Internet and Internet accessible news many Americans still rely on TV and radio for getting information. Giving the 1% the gift of greater control over the media is wrong. We need to restore our democracy and restore diversity in the public airwaves. In 1983 fifty companies owned our nation's TV channels and radio stations today a handful of 6 conglomerates own most of the stations on the radio dial and most of the TV channels in addition to major websites.

Also too often thanks to *vertical media monopolies* like Comcast NBC your service provider for Internet, TV and home phone service is also a content provider. We have seen Comcast's conflicts of interest in retransmission consent fights with Tennis Channel and Bloomberg where Comcast has broken merger conditions. We have seen Comcast apply its data caps unequally to favor their own XFINITY TV service while applying such caps to rival services prompting a Net Neutrality complaint from Netflix CEO Reed Hastings against the cable giant.