

Unfortunately it seems this once great country the United States of America is headed towards an oligarchic and plutocratic system of government with corporate rule. For evidence of this look no further than recent rulings by the conservative majority on the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* they have equated money as a form of speech and struck down spending limits on how much money wealthy donors and corporations can spend on political ads to influence our elections. Even worse they have struck down a part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 making it harder for the Department of Justice to protect the rights of minorities to vote in the wake of discriminatory voter ID laws designed to block or suppress the vote. These voter ID laws are mainly being passed in red or conservative states and signed into law by far right Republican governors who want to limit the vote to make it easier for conservatives to win elections. However, if one cannot win in free and open elections they do not deserve to win. It is unfair to block the vote. Furthermore, the problem with *Citizens United* is if money is speech and corporations are persons then the speech of those with \$5 billion or more is worth a lot more than the speech of a person with just \$5. The system is becoming less equal. Already economic inequality has over the past decade gotten worse and is now resulting in political inequality. Do not sell out the Open Internet to corporations and let those with more money be heard while silencing the voices of peaceful protesters. An Open Web enables dissent, political activism and free flow of civic discourse a corporate owned Web threatens all of that. Worse, mergers like Comcast Time Warner Cable and AT&T DirecTV consolidate power into fewer and fewer hands and threaten the Open Web even further. A Sprint T-Mobile merger would also be a disaster for competition in the wireless market and give a larger Sprint more power to discriminate against the Open Web. Rupert Murdoch's decision to try and snag Time Warner Inc., is also a disaster for diversity, localism and competition. We need more independent voices not more mega mergers.