

June 16, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

After reading an article regarding an attempt by the FTC to censor free speech, I felt that it was my duty as an American citizen to voice my opinion regarding this issue. I'm sure it comes as no surprise to you that I do not support this. The choice to spend my hard earned money should lie solely with me. I should not be forced to pay, through taxation of otherwise, for the training or salaries of a failed institution, especially one, who by their own calculated actions, has put itself in this situation. This sounds like another bailout. The news media has lost the trust of the people and therefore its support. Why would I want to invest in an institution that is consistently biased, distorts facts, omits them, or presents false information. This is the United States of America, not China. We have free speech here and a choice. If I choose not to listen to a particular point of view, I should be able to make that determination, as well as support it financially. If I feel like filling my head with nonsense, that should be left up to my discretion and not yours. I am very capable of determining what is balanced news. Your perception of what is balanced may not be mine. So, it is best left up to the individual to pick and choose where they would like to get their information from and in what form they choose to get it. The various media outlets should be allowed to fail if they do not attract an audience. That's life. The best will rise to the top and succeed. That happens every day in our society. Why should the media be any different. If they do not produce what the people want to see or hear, they should be allowed to fail. As far as I know, the choice to turn the internet, tv, or radio on or off still lies with me and I will decide with my viewing time and finances what I will support. I'm sorry that your institution has invested so much time on this topic when your intervention is not really needed. This decision is really a personal issue. Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on such and important topic.

Sincerely,

Gloria Pennison