

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it seems that those of us who care about our freedom need to make a statement. The intended merger of Time Warner and AOL may be fine in many ways but is it a threat to the American consumer and taxpayer. The near elimination of competition that this merger will allow will almost certainly result in a loss of control and freedom of speech particularly as it is now enjoyed on the Internet today. Many persons who currently use the Internet are not aware of what they hold in their hands so to speak. Time Warner's policy of being the sole judge and jury of usage on it's service is in essence a free ticket to bypassing the First Amendment. Policies such as bandwidth-limiting Usenet access and determining in their own minds what is acceptable use as to communication of thought is clearly a violation of what we in this country have come to regard as a right. Please think carefully when considering this move and act as a concerned citizen who cares about his or her own rights. The potential for limiting what users do on the Internet is clearly aimed at the bottom line. Money does not, or certainly should not, run this country, free citizens do. I would well imagine that if you spoke with any of the Time Warner or AOL personnel on an individual basis and asked them if they would like to hand over their rights as a free citizen in the name of profit they would tell you, ABSOLUTELY NO!