

July 27, 2018
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about the free press. The third estate has been an issue since printing began and the past few decades have seen fundamental shifts away from local papers - driven by deregulation first by Reagan, then Clinton and now Pai - and now to electronic distribution with the associated problems around verification and sourcing. Similarly, as the drafters of the first amendment realized, politicians have always had a love/hate relationship with media and the correlation between a strong independent press and a free society has been quite good. Regulation needs to adapt to the current media to reign in bots pushing fake stories and prevent the loss of neutrality rules from silencing corporate critics. This failure to regulate along with reports of retaliation against white house correspondants gives the impression of a move away from democracy.

Please assure me that you will actively defend the free press.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from the first amendment.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson