



PREPARED STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD OF

FUTURE FILM COALITION

for the

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE,
REGULATORY REFORM, AND ANTITRUST**

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

at a hearing titled

**“FULL STREAM AHEAD: COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE
IN DIGITAL STREAMING”**

JANUARY 7, 2026

The Future Film Coalition (FFC)¹ appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record for the Jan. 7, 2026, hearing titled “Full Stream Ahead: Competition and Consumer Choice in Digital Streaming.” FFC is a national alliance of filmmakers, producers, film workers, distributors, sales agents, film festivals, and movie theaters across the United States. Our members are predominantly small businesses and independent companies operating throughout the film and media supply chain.

Across the U.S. film and television industry, approximately 92 percent of the 122,000 businesses employ fewer than 10 people,² and FFC’s members are among the small enterprises, filmmakers, festivals, exhibitors, and cultural workers represented within this broader ecosystem. These businesses and enterprises depend on competitive, open, and fair markets for the creation, distribution, and exhibition of film and media, and they increasingly face material constraints arising from heightened market concentration, algorithmic gatekeeping, and the contraction of independent distribution pathways.³

FFC strongly opposes any transaction that further consolidates control over film and streaming markets, and urges the Subcommittee to conduct rigorous oversight of any proposed acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery. The media industry is already highly concentrated, and further consolidation will harm small businesses and independent companies in the film ecosystem in the following ways:

- **Fewer buyers for independent works:** Mergers that eliminate head-to-head competitors reduce the number of buyers for creative content⁴
- **Harm to independent theaters and film festivals as Main Street businesses:** Independent cinemas and festivals are small, entrepreneurial cultural hubs, particularly in small towns and rural communities. Beyond competition from streaming, consolidation threatens their access to classic and repertory film catalogs, which have been essential sources of revenue (especially post-pandemic), audience growth, and the preservation of U.S. film culture.⁵

¹ <https://www.futurefilmcoalition.org/about>

² Motion Picture Association, The U.S. Motion Picture and Television Industry: Creating Jobs, Trading Globally, and Driving Economic Growth (MPA Economic Impact Report), <https://www.motionpictures.org/research-docs/>

³ National Endowment for the Arts, Independent Media Arts Field Briefing (Independent Media Arts Group, 2021), <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/IMAG-Field-Briefing-KMR2.pdf>

⁴ A monopsony harm recognized under the Clayton Act and previously upheld in the blocked Penguin Random House’s acquisition of Simon & Schuster (U.S. v. Bertelsmann, 2022).

⁵ Art House Convergence (AHC) Annual Report & Industry Insights on Repertory Programming and Audience Development (2022–2024), <https://arthouseconvergence.org>.

- **Downward pressure on budgets and labor compensation**
- **Loss of long-term revenue and IP ownership:** The shift toward all-rights buyouts and IP lock-ins has reduced downstream revenue streams that historically sustained independent creators and small companies
- **Loss of career opportunities** for writers, actors, directors, crew members, and post-production workers due to shorter production timeframes and fewer programming outlets.
- **Restrictions on distribution, screenings, or impact campaigns,** affecting the ability to reach audiences.
- **Shelving, cancellation, or delayed release of completed works⁶:** Following recent media mergers, companies have cancelled, pulled, or written off billions of dollars in completed or near-completed film and television projects.
- **Editorial interference and narrowed types of projects purchased⁷, especially due to political pressures:** Ownership concentration increases risks of self-censorship and editorial suppression, particularly when corporate and political interests converge.

For the reasons above, we urge the Subcommittee to closely scrutinize both horizontal and vertical mergers, apply existing antitrust law consistent with the DOJ–FTC Merger Guidelines, and fully assess impacts on labor markets, independent suppliers, cultural output, and local economies. We stand ready to work with the Subcommittee to ensure that the review process reflects the real-world consequences for America’s independent film ecosystem.

⁶ Writers Guild of America West, "Broken Promises: Media Mega-Mergers and the Case for Antitrust Reform," December 2021, <https://www.wga.org/the-guild/advocacy/politics-public-policy-pac/broken-promises-media-mega-mergers-and-the%20case-for-antitrust-reform>.

⁷ For example: Sundance 2023 Documentary Sales and Beyond: Stark Realities, Golden Opportunities, Filmmaker Magazine (Feb. 6, 2023), <https://filmmakermagazine.com/121543-sundance-2023-documentary-sales-and-beyond-stark-realities-golden-opportunities/>