For Immediate Release

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Block the Merger Statement on Court Order Regarding Paramount Consent Decree

OAKLAND —The **Block the Merger coalition** released the following statement regarding Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín's order granting the state attorneys general and Paramount motion to enter the consent decree. The order comes after Free Press, the Committee for the First Amendment, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, the Future Film Coalition, and the International Documentary Association, core groups within the coalition, filed an amicus brief requesting that the toothless Paramount consent decree be rejected.

"In years to come, we'll be able to point to this failure to put consumers over the monied interests of corporate consolidation as the tipping-point moment for media in this country. Allowing the Paramount Skydance-Warner Bros. Discovery merger to move forward with no meaningful structural remedies will cost jobs, mute creativity, weaken independent journalism, and damage our First Amendment rights. The ripples of this merger will be far-reaching, long-lasting, and impossible to contain.

"If there is one discernible benefit to the approval of this corporate takeover, it's that people are now wide awake and paying attention – and their anger is not going to fade away. We are going to build on this movement to stand united as creatives, policy experts, and public advocates to achieve enduring media policy change that funds and diversifies our media and safeguards its independence. We are going to ensure the government protects the interests of everyday people and prevents them from continuing to be bulldozed for those of oligarch billionaires. We are going to continue the fight."

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