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# States Consider Broader Implications of Paramount-Warner Bros Deal

## Description

In a politically charged environment, Paramount's \$111 billion acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery has ignited significant debate in California and beyond. The merger, which received approval from the Justice Department without stipulations, faces substantial political pushback, particularly from state officials and various interest groups.

At a recent UFC event attended by Donald Trump, Paramount CEO David Ellison appeared confident. However, sources indicate that his partnership with Trump may have alienated potential allies, complicating the merger's approval. "They may think they're home free, but that's wishful thinking and not political reality," stated a source familiar with power dynamics in Sacramento.

Leading the charge against this merger, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who is seeking re-election, is preparing a lawsuit alongside nearly a dozen other state attorneys general. Their objective is to contest the merger or impose conditions to limit its scope. Despite vocal concerns regarding antitrust violations, the ongoing midterm elections seem to play a significant role in shaping these actions.

Bonta has already expressed skepticism about the merger's viability, reinforcing his position with a firm tweet asserting that the investigation is ongoing. To counter any legal challenges, Ellison has retained prominent antitrust lawyer Jeffrey Kessler, who has previously collaborated with Bonta against other mergers. While Kessler maintains respect for state attorneys, he remains doubtful about their ability to establish a successful antitrust case against Paramount.

Complicated by intense political scrutiny, the merger faces time-sensitive financial pressures. If not finalised by September 30, Paramount risks incurring substantial fees, which could reach hundreds of millions monthly. The urgency intensifies with the expectation that Bonta's team will rigorously evaluate the merger's implications for consumers, signalling that legal action may soon follow.

In the broader context of political battles, prominent figures in Hollywood are voicing their concerns about the merger, linking it to potential job losses and broader industry impacts. Democratic candidates and activists are rallying support against the merger, framing it as a critical issue for workers in Los Angeles, where job security in the industry has already declined sharply.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice



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1. What was the value of Paramount's acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery?

- Option: \$111 million
- Option: \$111 billion
- Option: \$100 billion
- Option: \$150 billion

2. Who is the CEO of Paramount mentioned in the text?

- Option: David Ellison
- Option: Rob Bonta
- Option: Jeffrey Kessler
- Option: Donald Trump

3. Which state official is leading the charge against the merger?

- Option: Gavin Newsom
- Option: Rob Bonta
- Option: Dianne Feinstein
- Option: Kamala Harris

4. What is the main concern expressed about the merger?

- Option: Financial profitability
- Option: Job losses
- Option: Technological advancements
- Option: Legal stipulations

5. By when must the merger be finalized to avoid substantial fees?

- Option: August 15
- Option: September 30
- Option: November 10
- Option: October 5

6. Who is the prominent antitrust lawyer retained by Ellison?

- Option: Rob Bonta
- Option: Jeffrey Kessler
- Option: David Ellison
- Option: Donald Trump

**True-False**



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7. The Justice Department approved the merger with stipulations.
  8. Rob Bonta is seeking re-election.
  9. David Ellison is worried about losing potential allies due to his partnership with Trump.
  10. The merger is not facing any political pushback.
  11. California Attorney General Rob Bonta has expressed full support for the merger.
  12. Legal action against the merger is unlikely in the near future.

### Gap-Fill

13. Paramount's acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery has sparked significant debate in \_\_\_\_\_ .
14. California Attorney General Rob Bonta is preparing a lawsuit alongside nearly a \_\_\_\_\_ other state attorneys general.
15. Bonta's investigation into the merger is \_\_\_\_\_ ongoing.
16. The merger faces time-sensitive financial pressures due to potential fees reaching hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ monthly.
17. The urgency of finalizing the merger is compounded by intense political \_\_\_\_\_ .
18. Hollywood figures are linking the merger to potential job \_\_\_\_\_ in the industry.

### Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. \$111 billion 2. David Ellison 3. Rob Bonta 4. Job losses 5. September 30 6. Jeffrey Kessler  
**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False  
**Gap-Fill:** 13. California 14. dozen 15. still 16. millions 17. scrutiny 18. losses

### CATEGORY



1. Business - LEVEL6

**POST TAG**

1. antitrust
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. film industry
5. Level 6
6. Paramount-Warner Bros

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**Author**

aimeeyoung99

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