

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

843

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR) recognized that every satellite television subscriber should have the opportunity to access their home state's television programming. As you know, STELAR authorized the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to act swiftly to review and grant petitions for market modification that allow local broadcast stations to reach local communities. With that in mind, we write in support of Monongalia County's and Preston County's market modification petitions (Docket No. 17-274 and 17-275) to allow in-state television broadcasts from Clarksburg-Weston, West Virginia-based stations into these counties. Importantly, this market modification will provide residents of these counties with access to in-state television broadcasts that provide coverage of the state capital and their communities.

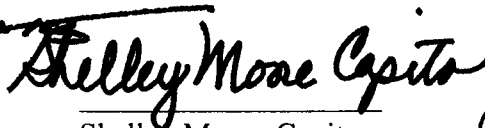
Monongalia County and Preston County are part of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Designated Market Area (DMA). As a result, satellite television subscribers in these counties currently lack access to West Virginia programming, including critical emergency information, the latest developments in state and local government, and local weather and sports. The Communications Act requires particular attention to be afforded to whether market modification would "promote consumers' access to television broadcast station signals that originate in their State of residence." There may be few better examples demonstrating the need for market modification than that satellite subscribers in Morgantown, the home of the West Virginia University Mountaineers, lack coverage of their favorite Mountaineer teams.

We therefore urge the Commission to work with the parties to grant the petitions expeditiously. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

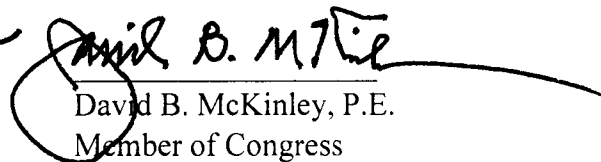
Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter in support of the market modification petitions filed by Monongalia County and Preston County, West Virginia. As you note, satellite television subscribers residing in these counties currently do not have access to West Virginia broadcast stations, and the petitions seek to address this issue.

On September 25, 2017, Monongalia and Preston filed Petitions seeking to modify the local satellite television markets of three West Virginia broadcast stations—WDTV, WVFX, and WBOY—to cover both counties. During pre-filing coordination with AT&T/DirecTV and DISH Networks, the satellite carriers stated that spot beams carrying these broadcast stations provide full coverage of both counties. On November 2, 2017, the licensees of the three West Virginia stations filed a letter in support of the petitions. No oppositions were filed.

Although I cannot comment on the merits of the petitions because they are pending before us, they are currently under review by staff in the Commission's Media Bureau. The FCC is working diligently to ensure that they are resolved on or before February 12, 2018, our statutory deadline.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

Thank you for your letter in support of the market modification petitions filed by Monongalia County and Preston County, West Virginia. As you note, satellite television subscribers residing in these counties currently do not have access to West Virginia broadcast stations, and the petitions seek to address this issue.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

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