



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*"You Are Why We Are Here"*

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Pai:

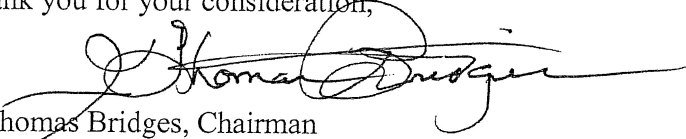
As the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Franklin County, I am a representative of our citizens. Over the years, our residents have consistently voiced their concerns and frustrations regarding their nightly news, weather, sports, and political broadcasts.

There are many reasons why I believe I, and all our citizens of Franklin County, should be able to watch Georgia television stations. I share these thoughts with you below:

- 1) We need to be able to get news information of what is happening in Georgia not North and South Carolina. Our state identity is important to us.
- 2) This is an election year. I did not see any Georgia candidate political ads on any of the Carolina stations. We need information on the candidates for state and national representatives for Georgia. Informed voters are imperative to a democracy. It is important that our citizens are informed, educated voters electing representatives to govern and represent our interest at the local, state, and national level.
- 3) Public safety is one of the key cornerstones of a local government. Our local emergency management team and local school board must watch weather reports issued from Peachtree City, Georgia to prepare for and make decisions regarding the incoming weather. This information is not available to our citizens through satellite broadcasts. Our citizens receive the weather from Greenville/Spartanburg.

In my opinion, depriving our citizens from being a part of what is happening in Georgia is one of the worst forms of discrimination. We are alienated from our state in news, weather, sports, and politics. It is for these reasons above that I respectfully request the Federal Communications Commission rule in favor of the petition filed by Franklin County.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
J. Thomas Bridges, Chairman  
Franklin County Board of Commissioners