



BAUDETTE, MINNESOTA 56623

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 3, 1993

The Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St NW  
Washington DC 20554

Subject: MM Docket No. 92-265, Program Access

I am the General Manager of North Star Electric Cooperative with headquarters located in Baudette, Minnesota. I am writing in regards to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making that was released on December 24, 1992. I am specifically concerned with the portions of the notice pertaining to Section 19, programming access provisions of the recently passed cable bill.

Our cooperative provides electric service to approximately 5300 members in the remote northern regions of Minnesota. In our area, television reception by antenna is poor, cable is available in only a few towns, and the satellite dish offers our members the chance to receive good television reception and be linked with the nation's television programs. The problem is that those members who own a dish have been paying very high rates for much of the programming they receive. In fact, their programming costs are many times what the local cable operators have to pay for programming. Our members, cooperative employees, and directors have long felt that this practice is unfair and unjustified.

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Passage of the cable bill re-enforced our faith in a government that can respond to correct unfair practices which exist in our system. Price discrimination in TV programming does exist, and it is a real dollars-and-cents issue for many rural residents.

All citizens of the United States should have equal access to TV programming at fair prices! With this thought in mind, I want to urge you to review the intent of the cable bill and to issue regulations which are in step with the bill's intent. Only in this way can the will of the people and the intent of our legislators be re-enforced on this issue.

I thank you for your time and hope that the final rule you develop will fulfill our expectations and the obligation entrusted to you by Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry M. Carls". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Harry M. Carls  
General Manager

HMC/ld