

*Copy -*  
**POST-MASTECTOMY PROGRAM of BERGEN COUNTY**

c/o YM-YWHA of BERGEN COUNTY • 605 PASCACK ROAD, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, NJ 07675 • (201) 666-6610

Co-sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Teaneck and Mid Bergen Branch, YWCA of Bergen County and YM-YWHA of Bergen County.

# **POST-MASTECTOMY PROGRAM of BERGEN COUNTY**

c/o YM-YWHA of BERGEN COUNTY • 605 PASCACK ROAD, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, NJ 07675 • (201) 666-6610

Co-sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Teaneck and Mid-Bergen Sections; YWCA of Bergen County; and YM-YWHA of Bergen County

June 1, 1992

The Hon. Bill Bradley

Dear Sen. Bradley:

I urge you to reject proposals to exclude local broadcast stations from local cable carriage.

It is our experience that WHSE TV 68 "In Your Interest," hosted by Bill Roller, performs an outstanding public service, reaching and helping to educate people in many communities on a wide range of issues. The president of our organization and myself were guests on this hour long show and on the special segments that continued to be broadcast over a period of 90 days. Through hourly segments, alternating with other public service messages, this format provides a large and diverse audience the opportunity to gain information on important subjects such as breast cancer.

Public access has been made possible to people of many different communities and backgrounds through the WHSE programming.

WHSE TV helped get our message across. For your information, I've enclosed our latest press release and a copy of our PRE-OP phone HELP LINE brochure, targetted to New Jersey women. I'd be pleased to supply your New Jersey office with more brochures for distribution, particularly in advance of or in connection with Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October). Please contact me through our letterhead address above, or by phoning (914) 357-6349.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Mathieu

Public Relations Chairman

enclosures



RECEIVED

JUN 29 1993

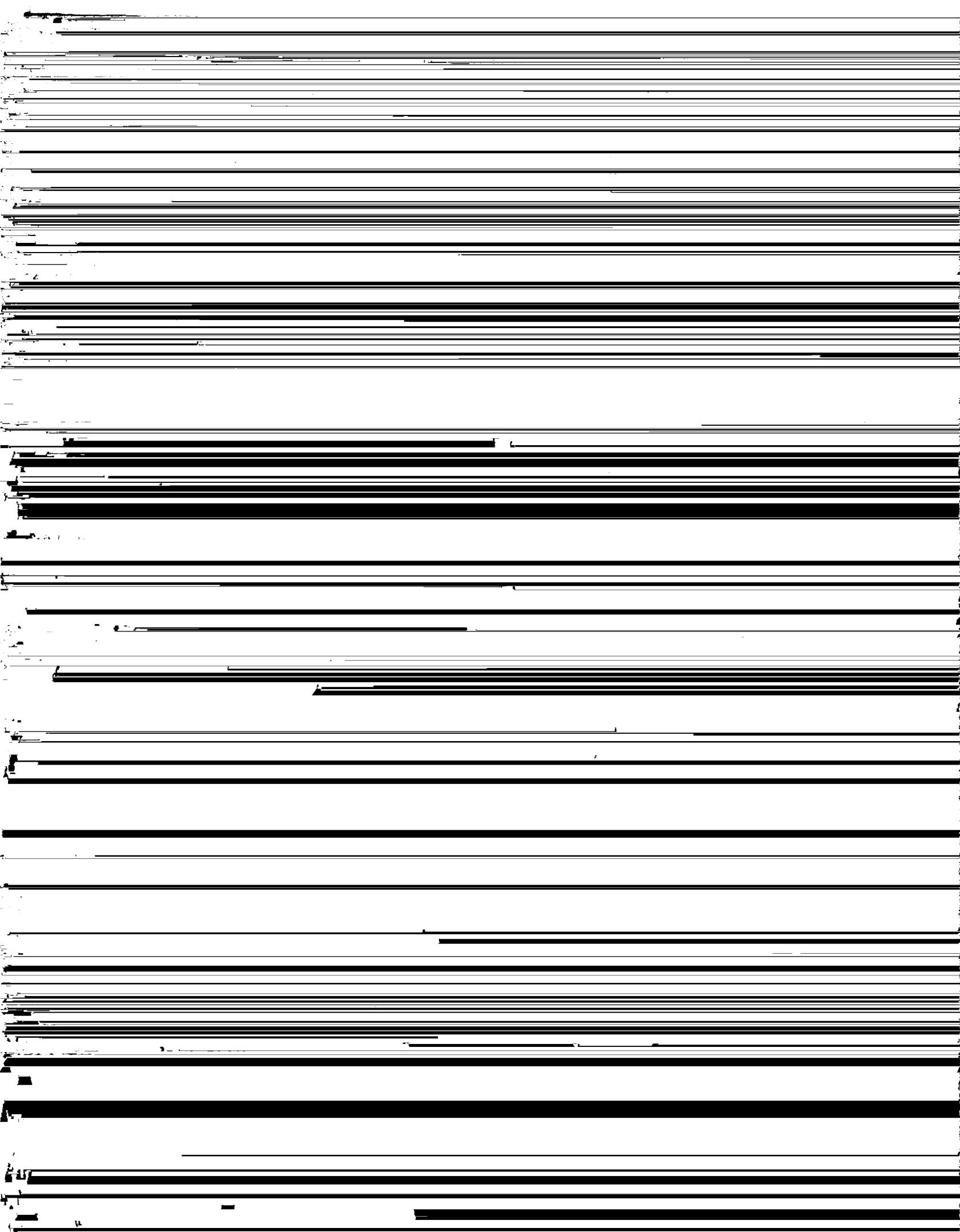
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WHSE-TV  
NEW YORK

WHSI-TV  
LONG ISLAND

93-8 /

LETTERS FROM CONGRESS/FCC  
RE: MUST CARRY



APR 16 91 WED 10:54

P. 01



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

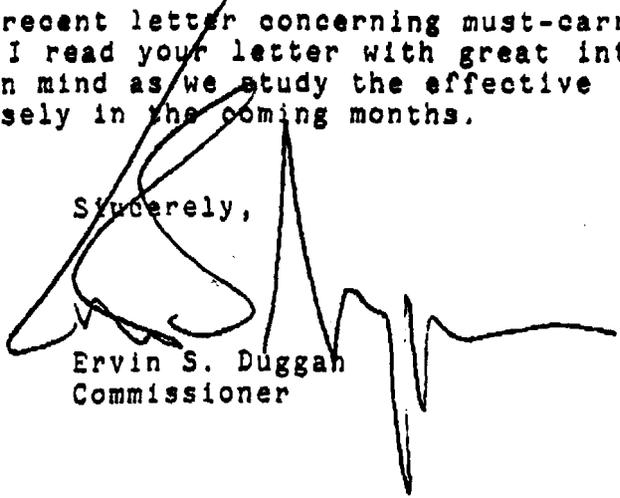
April 2, 1991

Ms. Ella Connors  
Vice President & Station Manager  
WHSI-TV  
3200 Expressway Drive South  
P.O. Box 559  
Central Islip, New York 11722

Dear Ms. Connors:

Many thanks for your recent letter concerning must-carry and channel positioning. I read your letter with great interest and will keep your views in mind as we study the effective competition issue more closely in the coming months.

Sincerely,

  
Ervin S. Duggan  
Commissioner

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND JUDICIARY  
DEFENSE  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-3002

September 3, 1992

COMMITTEE:  
BUDGET

COMMITTEE:  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SUPERFUND, OCEAN AND WATER  
PROTECTION, CHAIRMAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATER RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HELSINKI COMMISSION

Ms. Ella Connors  
Vice President & Station Manager  
HSN Broadcasting of NJ, Inc.  
390 West Market Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you for contacting me.

I appreciate knowing of your concern about the exclusion of local television broadcast stations by some cable operators. Clearly, local broadcasters can play a vital role by providing important local information such as news, public affairs, and emergency broadcasts.

As you may know, S. 12, legislation to regulate the cable industry, was approved by the Senate in January with my support. This bill contained a provision, known as "must carry," which would prevent cable operators from excluding local broadcasters from their programming, ensuring that cable subscribers would have access to local programming. Similar legislation has passed the House of Representatives, and members of the House and Senate are expected to confer soon to reconcile the differences between the two bills. Although President Bush has threatened to veto

GEORGE J. HOCHBRUECKNER  
167 DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES

MERCHANT MARINE  
AND FISHERIES

NARCOTICS ABUSE  
AND CONTROL

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3201  
May 17, 1993

228 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3201  
(202) 226-3828

DISTRICT OFFICES:

3771 NEWCONSET HIGHWAY  
SUITE 213  
CENTERACH, NY 11720  
(516) 889-8767

SAGSHAW OFFICE BUILDING  
437 EAST MAIN STREET  
RIVERHEAD, NY 11801  
(516) 727-2162

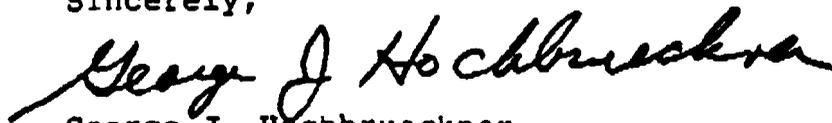
Mr. David Porrello  
P.O. Box 559  
Central Islip, NY 11722

Dear Mr. Porrello:

The enclosed letter is in response to my inquiry on your behalf to James Quello of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I hope you find the letter informative.

Rest assured that I will continue to keep abreast of the FCC's implementation of must carry provisions of the Cable Competition Act. If I can be of further assistance to you with any federal matter in the future, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,



George J. Hochbrueckner  
Member of Congress

GJH:pap  
Enclosure



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1993

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

Honorable George J. Hochbrueckner  
House of Representatives  
229 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hochbrueckner:

Thank you for your letter urging that home shopping station WHSI-TV, Long Island, be entitled to must-carry status on cable television.

Our Notice of Proposed Rule Making (MM Docket No. 93-8) was initiated to examine whether home shopping stations operate in the public interest and whether they should be entitled to must-carry status. The Notice (enclosed) includes a discussion of the criteria to be used in making these determinations and the potential impact on home shopping stations once regulations have been adopted.

Your comments will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosure are informative.

Sincerely,

  
James H. Quello  
Chairman

Enclosure

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

25 JUN 1992

IN REPLY REFER TO:

EH-8010  
CN-9201774

Honorable Alfonse D'Amato  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3202

Dear Senator D'Amato:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of New Jersey State Senator Richard J. Codey, regarding cable carriage of the Channel 68 broadcast television station. State Senator Codey is concerned that under "proposed changes" in the regulation of cable television, the cable system in his legislative district will not be required to carry Channel 68, which provides public affairs programming to his constituents. State Senator Codey would like to ensure that Channel 68 remains on the cable system.

There are no current statutes or regulations requiring cable carriage of broadcast stations, and there have not been for several years. Prior to 1985, the Commission's Rules required that cable systems carry most local broadcast television stations. In that year, however, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit invalidated the "must carry" rules, finding that such rules violated the First Amendment rights of cable operators. Quincy Cable TV, Inc. v. FCC, 768 F.2d 1434 (D.C. Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 106 S.Ct. 2889 (1986). Following the court's decision, the Commission adopted interim must carry rules in 1986. The interim rules were also struck down by the Court of Appeals in Century Communications v. FCC, 835 F.2d 292 (D.C. Cir. 1987), cert. denied, 486 U.S. 1032 (1988). In both cases, the court held that the Commission had failed to demonstrate a need for must carry rules that outweighed the First Amendment rights of cable operators. Since 1987, the Commission has had no requirements regarding the carriage of local broadcast stations on cable television systems.

Recently, the Commission has considered the adoption of limited must carry rules in two contexts. In MM Docket No. 90-4, which established criteria for determining when cable television systems are subject to effective competition, the Commission is currently seeking to determine whether must carry rules are necessary in order to ensure such effective competition. In MM Docket No. 82-434, regarding network-cable cross-ownership, the Commission recently adopted safeguards against instances of non-carriage resulting from discriminatory conduct on the part of network-owned cable systems. Where such conduct is found to have occurred, the Commission has stated that it will take remedial action, including ordering the cable operator to carry the station or to carry it on a given channel, as necessary.

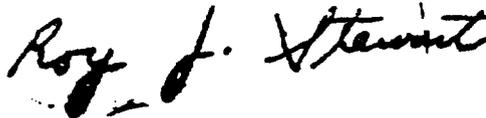
Honorable Alfonse D'Amato

2.

As you are aware, the United States Senate has also recently considered must carry rules. On January 31, 1992, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Cable TV Consumer Protection Act. This proposed statute would provide broadcasters the option of exercising must carry protection or retransmission consent rights. To date, the House of Representatives has not passed such legislation.

I have enclosed copies of the news releases concerning MM Docket No. 90-4 and MM Docket 82-434 for your use.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

07/06/1992 11153

FROM MARIANNE U. SHACKLES

TO UHST 67 DAVE



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3203

ROBERT J. MRAZEK  
3RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
WHIP AT LARGE

June 26, 1992

Ms. Marianne V. Shackles  
Public Relations & Media Consultant  
24 Weston Lane  
Smithtown, New York 11787

Dear Ms. Shackles:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for the inclusion of home shopping networks under any "must carry" provisions contained in cable-television regulation legislation. I am pleased to comment.

As you are aware, Congress is currently considering the Cable Television Regulation and Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (H.R. 4850), legislation aimed at lowering cable television rates and improving customer service. H.R. 4850 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to set a nationwide price for 'basic' cable service; the FCC could also regulate other program packages if it received a complaint by a state

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P. 0

**NORMAN F. LENT**  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON

# Congress of the United States

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLIES TO THE  
WASHINGTON, DC, OFFICE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2408 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-7898

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
 Room 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE

JUN 18 '92 10:02 O.C.E.C.

P.2

BILL BRADLEY  
NEW JERSEY

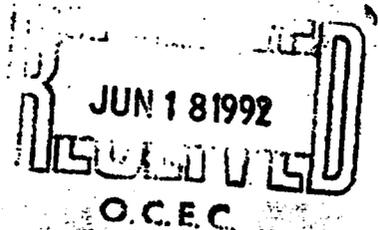
COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

June 11, 1992

Mr. Gerard M. Gannon  
The Occupational Center  
391 Lakeside Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050



Dear Mr. Gannon:

Thank you for your letter regarding WHSE-TV, Channel 68. I appreciated the opportunity to review your comments on this issue.

I was pleased to receive your positive comments regarding "In Your Interest" and agree that public service programming is an important component of broadcasting. My staff has contacted WHSE-TV directly regarding their concerns, which center on the "must carry" provisions of cable legislation passed by the Senate earlier this year. During consideration of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act, S. 12, an amendment was offered that would have singled out home shopping stations for different treatment with respect to these "must carry" provisions. Although this amendment was not included in the final version of S. 12, this bill is currently before the House of Representatives, and I will be following developments closely should it be altered during House deliberations.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and inform me of the public service efforts of Channel 68. Please stay in touch.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill Bradley  
United States Senator

*Frank Cochran*

BB/fvz

FRANK J. GUARINI  
14TH DISTRICT  
NEW JERSEY



RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3014  
(202) 225-2765

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

15 PATH PLAZA  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306  
(201) 859-7700

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

654 AVENUE C  
BAYONNE, NJ 07002  
(201) 823-2900

SENATOR BY DISTRICT

House of Representatives

DEAN A. GALLO  
11TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES  
ENERGY AND WATER  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
REGIONAL WHIP

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3011

April 3, 1992

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1318 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3011  
(202) 225-5034

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
101 GIBRALTAR DRIVE  
SUITE 2-D  
PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TWP.  
MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950  
(201) 984-0711

22 NORTH SUSSEX STREET  
DOVER, NJ 07801  
(201) 328-7413

3 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
WEST CALDWELL, NJ 07006  
(201) 228-9282

Ms. Ella Connors  
Vice President and Station Manager  
HSN Broadcasting of N.J.  
390 W. Market St.  
Newark, NJ 07107

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you for your recent letter urging my support for low power must carry provisions as part of House consideration of cable reregulation legislation.

I appreciate the urgency of your request and have forwarded copies of your letter to my colleague, Rep. Matthew Rinaldo, who is ranking Republican on the Telecommunications Subcommittee and will have a great deal to say about the provisions in the House bill.

The community service commitment of low power stations is consistent with that of the cable service providers themselves and the stations should be given the opportunity to have a place on the local cable system.

I will be closely watching the committee action on this bill and will keep your views in mind as this legislation comes before the House for consideration.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. DOWNEY  
2D DISTRICT, NEW YORK

222 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3333

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4 UDALL ROAD  
WEST ISLIP, NY 11795  
TELEPHONE: (516) 661-8777



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 24, 1992

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING  
CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND LONG TERM CARE

Ms. Ella Connors  
Vice President And Station Manager  
HSN Broadcasting Of New Jersey  
3200 Expressway Drive South, PO Box 559  
Central Islip, New York 11722

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you for contacting me about cable television. I am happy that we are in complete agreement on the need to change the way cable companies operate, specifically the way they deal with broadcasters.

Subscribers of cable television are at the mercy of their local cable operators. They are subject to price hikes, random channel eliminations and any additional charges an operator deems necessary. Presently, there exists little, if any, recourse for the individual cable subscriber. I have cosponsored legislation which would open the way for competition in the cable television market through a phased lifting of the restrictions preventing telephone companies from offering cable TV services in their telephone services areas.

Until viable competition exists, however, cable consumers must be protected. Legislation which would impose rate and service regulations on the cable TV industry has recently passed the Senate with overwhelming support. Incorporated into this legislation is a "must carry" provision which would require cable operators to carry the signals of local commercial television stations.

The House of Representatives is also working on cable reregulation legislation. Congressman Shays has introduced a bill that is identical to the Senate-passed version of a cable reregulation bill. In addition, Congressman Markey's Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, recently approved a draft bill which contained the "must carry" provision for local broadcasters. However, this draft bill included an amendment which would exclude home-shopping broadcast provisions from the must carry protection. This bill has not yet been approved by the full Energy and Commerce Committee. "Must carry" protection is important for all local broadcasters so that they can reach local viewers who are paying high prices for cable service.

It is imperative that a strong cable bill be passed now.

**MARGE ROUKEMA**  
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



*Rec'd  
5/15/92*

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2244 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3005  
(202) 225-4466

NEW JERSEY OFFICES:  
1200 EAST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE  
RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07460  
(201) 447-3900

81 SPRING STREET  
NEWTON, NJ 07860  
(201) 579-3039

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3005**

COMMITTEES:  
**BANKING, FINANCE AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
RANKING REPUBLICAN—  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,  
REGULATION AND INSURANCE  
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION  
**EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE**  
RANKING REPUBLICAN—  
LABOR—MANAGEMENT RELATIONS  
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
**SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER**

May 8, 1992

Ms. Ella Connors  
Station Manager TV 68 WHSE  
Silver King Broadcasting of NJ  
390 West Market Street  
Newark, NJ 07107

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you expressing your support for inclusion of a low power television station "must carry" provision in the pending cable television legislation. I always appreciate the benefit of your opinion.

As you know, the Senate passed S. 12, the "Cable Television Consumer Protection Act," on January 31, 1992, by a vote of 73-18. The House cable legislation has undergone extensive hearings and revision before the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, which completed its consideration of the latest cable bill, H.R. 4850, prior to Easter recess.

Unfortunately, Representative Slattery did not offer a "must carry" amendment during the April 8, subcommittee markup. There is a good chance, however, that a "must carry" amendment will be offered during full Energy and Commerce Committee markup of H.R. 4850, in the near future.

Rest assured, I will keep your concerns in mind, and I will be closely monitoring this legislation. Thank you, once again, for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,  
  
Marge Roukema  
Member of Congress

MSR:bb

BILL BRADLEY  
NEW JERSEY

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

June 11, 1992

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
AGING

Mr. Frank Menadier  
Department of Health and Human Services  
193 Avon Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07108

Dear Mr. Menadier:

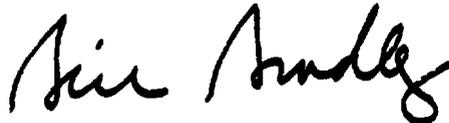
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Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and inform me of the public service efforts of Channel 68. Please stay in touch.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Bill Bradley  
United States Senator

BB/fvz

JUN 18 '92 10:02 O.C.E.C.

P.2

BILL BRADLEY  
NEW JERSEY

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
AGING

June 11, 1992

RECEIVED  
JUN 18 1992  
O.C.E.C.

Mr. Gerard M. Gannon  
The Occupational Center  
391 Lakeside Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

Dear Mr. Gannon:

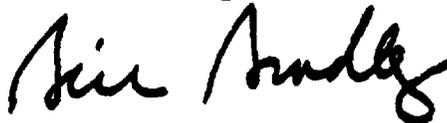
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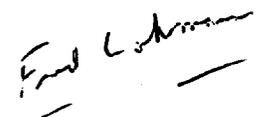
Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and inform me of the public service efforts of Channel 68. Please stay in touch.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Bill Bradley  
United States Senator



BB/fvz

BILL BRADLEY  
NEW JERSEY

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

June 23, 1992

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
AGING

Ms. Rachel Mathieu  
Post-Mastectomy Program of Bergen County  
c/o YM-YWHA of Bergen County  
605 Pascack Road  
Washington Township, New Jersey 07675

Dear Ms. Mathieu:

Thank you for your letter regarding WHSE-TV, Channel 68. I appreciated the opportunity to review your comments on this issue.

I was pleased to receive your positive comments regarding "In Your Interest" and agree that public service programming is an important component of broadcasting. My staff has contacted WHSE-TV directly regarding their

BILL BRADLEY  
NEW JERSEY

10-2-92  
**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

COMMITTEES  
FINANCE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
AGING

February 26, 1992

Ms. Ella Connors  
390 West Market Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you for contacting me about cable television legislation. The development of our telecommunications network will be a major issue in the 102nd Congress, and I am following it closely.

De-regulation of the cable TV industry has brought the

February 26, 1992  
Page 2

prevents consumers from voting with their pocketbooks, government has a duty to protect their interests. I hope that sufficient competition will soon develop in this market to minimize the need for government regulation. Because that day has not yet arrived, I support S. 12, the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act, and I am pleased that the Senate passed this measure.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I value your input and will keep your views in mind when cable TV legislation comes before the Senate again. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future on this or other matters of concern.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Bradley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Bill Bradley  
United States Senator

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND JUDICIARY  
DEFENSE  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-3002

June 11, 1992

COMMITTEE:  
BUDGET

COMMITTEE:  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SUPERFUND, OCEAN AND WATER  
PROTECTION, CHAIRMAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATER RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HELSINKI COMMISSION

Ms. Rachel Mathieu  
605 Pascack Road  
Washington Township, New Jersey 07675

Dear Ms. Mathieu:

Thank you for your letter.

I appreciate knowing of your concern about the possibility that local television broadcast stations would be dropped by cable operators. I understand your concern, and know that local broadcasters play a vital role by providing important local information such as news, public affairs, and emergency broadcasts.

As you may know, S. 12, legislation to regulate the cable industry, was approved by the Senate in January with my support. This bill contained a provision, known as "must carry," which would prevent cable operators from excluding local broadcasters from their programming, ensuring that cable subscribers would have access to local programming. Related legislation is pending in the House of Representatives, and I am hopeful that cable legislation will be enacted soon -- although President Bush has threatened to veto such a measure.

Again, thanks for writing. I appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Sincerely,



FRL:nal

REPLY TO:

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002  
(202) 224-4744

ONE GATEWAY CENTER SUITE 1011  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102-5311  
(201) 645-3030

BARRINGTON COMMONS  
208 WHITE HORSE PIKE  
SUITES 18-19  
BARRINGTON, N.J. 08007-1322  
(609) 757-5353

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:  
BUDGET

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE:  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBCOMMITTEES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SUPERFUND, OCEAN AND WATER  
PROTECTION, CHAIRMAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATER RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND JUDICIARY

DEFENSE

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002

February 14, 1992

HELSINKI COMMISSION

Ms. Ella Connors  
V.P. and Station Manager  
Channel 68 WHSE  
390 W. Market Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Ms. Connors:

Thank you for contacting me. I appreciated knowing of your support for S. 12, legislation to regulate the cable television industry.

I am concerned about the increasing costs of cable television, and the poor service provided to many cable subscribers. According to the United States General Accounting Office, in the four years after cable rates were deregulated in the mid-eighties, average monthly charges for the most popular basic cable service rose 61%, while inflation over that period was only 17.9%. Since cable operates as a monopoly in most cases, regulation of rates is appropriate, and needed where no competition exists.

As you may know, S. 12, the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1991, was approved by the Senate on January 31. I supported the measure, which would subject cable rates to regulation, and ensure that rates are kept at a reasonable level.

Again, I appreciated hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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ALFONSE D'AMATO  
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(202) 224-8542

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 14, 1992

Ms. Ella Conors  
390 W. Market Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Ms. Conors:

Thank you for contacting me and please excuse the delay in replying. I'm sorry not to have had the opportunity to respond sooner.

I appreciate your thoughts regarding S. 12, the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1991 which passed the Senate on January 31, 1992.

Since the passage in 1984 of the Cable Communications Policy Act, which effectively deregulated the cable industry, concerns have risen regarding instances of excessive cable rate increases and poor customer service. The Cable Television Consumer Protection Act was introduced in the Senate in an effort to address these concerns.

While I have reservations about some elements of this bill, I supported final passage of S. 12 because I feel it is important that consumers be assured of basic customer service standards and protection against unreasonable rate increases.

Like you, I was concerned with the so-called "retransmission consent" provision. This provision would give local broadcast stations the option of choosing between either retransmission consent, whereby they can negotiate with cable systems for compensation for their carriage, or "must carry" which forces a cable system to carry a qualifying local broadcast station, but no compensation is granted to the station.

While concerns have been expressed that fees paid to broadcast stations, under retransmission consent, could be reflected as an increase to cable subscribers, safeguards have been placed in the legislation to ensure that cable users are protected. Cable operators will be forced to have any new fee in basic cable service approved by the local franchising authority. Any disputes which are not settled by the local franchising authority will be brought before the FCC. According to the stipulations in this legislation, the Federal Communications Commission shall consider the impact that the granting of retransmission consent by