

# **PETITION FOR SPECIAL RELIEF**

Request to amend locally designated television market



Virtual Channel **11**  
RF Channel **10**  
Facility ID **51163**



**Submitted to:**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

**On behalf of :**

STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGA  
37 W. Tugalo St.  
Toccoa GA 30577

**Submitted November, 2018**

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Petition of  
Stephens County, Georgia

For Modification of the Television Market of Station WXIA (NBC), Channel 11, Atlanta, Georgia with  
Respect to DISH Network and DIRECTV

To: Chief, Media Bureau

**PETITION FOR SPECIAL RELIEF**

Pursuant to Section 338 of the Communications Act and Sections 76.7, 76.59 and 76.66 of the Commission's rules and with the support of hundreds of its residents, Stephens County, Georgia, hereby requests (hereinafter, the "Petition") that the television market of WXIA (Channel 11, NBC, Atlanta, Georgia) ("WXIA" or "Station") be modified to include Stephens County (the "County") in northeast Georgia with respect to satellite TV provider DISH Network ("DISH") and satellite TV provider DIRECTV ("DIRECTV"). For historical and geographic reasons, the County has long been assigned by Nielsen to the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson designated market area ("DMA"). As such, the County has been "orphaned" by Nielsen due to its assignment to an out-of-state DMA and has been deprived of the ability to receive from a satellite carrier its preferred in-state television broadcast stations. Consumers in the County have been unable to receive from satellite carriers important news from their own state capitol, which impairs viewers' abilities to follow political news such as elections and legislative issues that directly affect them as news outlets from the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson market do not provide deeper insight into Georgia politics. Sports fans in the County have had far fewer opportunities to enjoy in-state televised sporting events such as the Atlanta Falcons football games and the record breaking seasons of the Atlanta United Major League Soccer team. In addition, the County's weather patterns, while influenced by the Blue Ridge mountain range, typically comes from the West and the metro Atlanta area. As part of the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson DMA, the County is at a disadvantage for seeing the incoming weather from the other portions of our state.

The STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (“STELAR”) empowered the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) to modify a television broadcast station’s local market when it would, among other things, “address satellite subscribers’ inability to receive in-state programming in certain areas.”<sup>1</sup> STELAR added satellite television carriage to the Commission’s market modification authority. The Commission adopted satellite television market modification rules that provide a process for local governments to request changes to the boundaries to include a new community located in a neighboring local market.<sup>2</sup> This Petition thus falls within Section 338’s market modification provision, which allows the Commission to “include additional communities within [a station’s]...to better effectuate the purposes of this section.”<sup>3</sup>

For reasons explained below, the County respectfully requests that the Commission modify WXIA’s local market, as defined in 17 U.S.C. § 122(j), to include the County with respect to carriage by DISH and DIRECTV.

## **I. TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY**

In 2016 Stephens County worked with three other Georgia Counties - Elbert, Franklin and Hart Counties – to review and possibly amend their status as “orphaned” television markets within Georgia. As part of these efforts, on June 27, 2016 Franklin County sent to DISH a pre-filing coordination letter pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e) of the Commission’s rules (Exhibit A). DISH responded on September 2, 2016 (“DISH Response”) (Exhibit A) and confirmed that based upon DISH’s current knowledge and satellite coverage capabilities, DISH was unaware of any factors that render the provision of the Station in Franklin County to be “technically infeasible” pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e). DISH, however, reserved the right to amend its feasibility certification “*at any time due to, among other things, a satellite*

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<sup>1</sup> Market Modification Order ¶ 3.

<sup>2</sup> FCC DA 17-204 and *Amendment to the Commission’s Rules Concerning Market Modification; Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014*; MB Docket No. 15-71, Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 10406 (2015) (*STELAR Market Modification Report and Order*) (revising 47 CFR § 76.59). A community is defined as a county for purpose of the satellite market modification rules. 47 CFR § 76.5(gg)(2).

<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 338(1).

*equipment failure or a different satellite being brought into service for the area that include the County which has different coverage capabilities that the satellite(s) currently being used.”*<sup>4</sup>

The four participating counties also understand from other communications with DISH that if a given Atlanta, Georgia local broadcast station impacted by a market modification elects retransmission consent with respect to DISH for carriage of its station in their county, “*DISH cannot be certain whether it will be able to successfully reach an agreement with the station.*” Further, if DISH is unable to reach a retransmission consent agreement with a given station, “*it will be impossible for DISH to provide that station’s signal into the County.*” DISH also clarified that if only some, but not all, of the Atlanta Big-4 stations “*were to deny DISH the right to retransmit its signal into the County, it may be either technically or economically infeasible, or both, for DISH to launch a customer offering with only the remaining stations that did grant retransmission consent.*” The DISH Response also notes that “*an FCC grant of a market modification could result in, among other things, two different stations affiliated with the same broadcast network being authorized for satellite local-into-local carriage in the County,*” which would “*result in DISH being required to pay retransmission consent fees twice for the same broadcast network.*” DISH therefore has stated it “*must reserve the right to charge additional fees to subscribers in the County who elect to receive any Atlanta local broadcast stations that DISH may be authorized to offer as a result of any market modification.*”

As with their investigations with DISH, on June 27, 2016, Franklin County sent to DIRECTV a pre-filing coordination letter pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e) of the Commission’s rules (Exhibit B). DIRECTV responded by letter August 2, 2016 (“DIRECTV Response”) (Exhibit B) and confirmed that based upon DIRECTV’s current knowledge and satellite coverage capabilities, DIRECTV can provide service to all the zip codes associated within the four northeast Georgia counties with its SD and HD spot beam.

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

## **II. THIS PETITION SATISFIES THE STATUTORY FACTORS**

As required by STELAR, the Commission determines whether to grant a market modification based on consideration of five statutory factors. These factors reflect the four factors previously applicable to market modifications in the cable context, plus an additional factor to assess “*whether modifying the local market of the television station would promote consumers’ access to television broadcast station signals that originate in the State of residence.*” The five statutory factors are not intended to be exclusive. Furthermore, the importance of particular factors will vary depending on the circumstances of each case.

The five factors are:

1. Whether the station or other stations located in the same area have been historically carried on (a) the cable system within that community; and (b) the satellite carrier or carriers serving that community;
2. Whether the television station provides coverage or other local service to that community;
3. Whether modifying the local market of the television station would promote consumers’ access to television broadcast station signals that originate in their state of residence;
4. Whether any other television station that is eligible to be carried by a satellite carrier in the community in fulfillment of the requirements provides news coverage of issues of concern to the community or provides carriage or coverage of sporting and other events of interest to the community; and
5. Evidence of viewing patterns in households that subscribe and do not subscribe to the services offered by multichannel video programming distributors within the areas served by the multichannel video programming distributors in the community.<sup>5</sup>

### **A. This Petition Satisfies the Third and Most Important Factor by Bringing an In-State Local Broadcast Station to Consumers Who Historically Have Been Unable to Receive it From a Satellite Carrier**

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<sup>5</sup> Order ¶ 8.

Where, as here, the purpose of the market modification is to bring a previously unavailable (via satellite carrier) in state-local broadcast station to a community, the third factor should carry significant weight in the Commission's analysis.<sup>6</sup> Today, because the County is assigned to the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson DMA, all of its local broadcast content available by satellite is oriented to the interests of different states. The Station is licensed in the Atlanta, Georgia DMA, which is in the same state as the County. As the Stephens County Commission, we represent our constituents and seek to be an advocate for those we serve<sup>7</sup>. We have worked diligently on this petition since the implementation of STELAR. Stephens County residents feel disenfranchised and disadvantaged by the lack of access to Atlanta programming, and want to receive news, as well as educational, sports, and other programming, from our own state capitol<sup>8</sup>.

This Petition therefore satisfies the third factor by delivering an in-state NBC-affiliated local broadcast station from Atlanta, the Georgia state capitol, over DISH's and DIRECTV's satellite TV service to consumers in the County who have previously been unable to receive it from DISH and DIRECTV. As the Order explains, this third in-state factor received enhanced weight when the Commission considers market modification petitions.<sup>9</sup>

Demand for this Petition has risen given that 2018 is a gubernatorial election year. In this, and every election year, Stephens County residents do not have access to specific public affairs programming such as televised debates of gubernatorial candidates, Congressional candidates, candidates for State office, or statewide ballot issues, which compromises their ability to be well informed and well educated as to issues affecting them as citizens of Georgia. Constituents in the County have an interest in seeing their own state officials and news regarding state political campaigns on satellite TV, and granting this Petition would facilitate such access in the future.

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<sup>6</sup> See Order ¶ 4 and ¶ 8.

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Stephens County Board of Commissioners Chairman

<sup>8</sup> See Exhibit L

<sup>9</sup> See Order ¶ 4 ("We conclude that the new in-state factor, when applicable, favors any market modification that would promote consumers' access to an in-state station. When applicable, this in-state factor serves as an enhancement, the particular weight of which depends on the strength of showing by the petitioner.")

In addition to state and national political news, the County residents desire to see local political results and programming that is important to the County. The November 2017 local election results for Stephens County were not posted or were provided limited coverage by the NBC-affiliated local broadcast station. Local election results are submitted by the Election Superintendent to the Georgia Secretary of State routinely throughout the election night making the information available to the stations as well as the public. As evidenced by Exhibit J which includes screenshots of election results from the station's website, results for Georgia's orphaned counties, including Stephens County and its municipalities, were excluded. The current NBC-affiliated local broadcast station also provided no coverage or limited coverage of the 2018 candidates.

In a joint letter from our Congressional representatives in support of the four Counties' efforts, Congressman Collins, Senator Isakson, and Senator Perdue last year expressed strong support of the satellite market modification and define the "*need for access to in-state television for news, weather, and sports*". They further note that "this petition comes after years of effort in the legislative and executive branches of our government as well as the state level"<sup>10</sup>

Also collected last year, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, a trade association that represents the interest of Georgia television licensees, confirmed their full support in a letter<sup>11</sup>. The Association writes, "*as broadcasters in Georgia, we appreciate the efforts of Franklin [County] to increase viewer access to local broadcast TV programming in Northeast Georgia.*" While the Association does not wish to undermine the framework of local TV broadcasting, they do note their goal "*is to provide [orphan] counties with local Georgia programming.*"

Grant of this Petition would enable DISH and DIRECTV subscribers in the County to receive the Station, which offers Georgia-oriented weather, news, sports, and political coverage, among other things, through their satellite TV package.

## **B. The Remaining Factors Support This Petition**

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<sup>10</sup> Letter dated May 19, 2017 from Congress of the United States—Collins, Isakson, Perdue

<sup>11</sup> Letter dated November 27, 2017 from Georgia Association of Broadcasters

The first, second, and fifth factors all relate to historical or current opportunity to view the Station in the County (the first and second factors), and whether the residents of the County have availed themselves of such opportunities (the fifth factor). Since the purpose of STELAR was to facilitate access to in-state broadcast programming, neither a lack of historical carriage or coverage nor a commensurate lack of historical viewing patterns for the Station should weigh against the requested market modification. Because the County has long been assigned by Nielsen to an out-of-state DMA STELAR's market modification provision marks the first opportunity for the County to receive the Station's signal over satellite. Given this lack of carriage, residents of the County have had scant opportunity to develop any viewing patterns for the Station. It is precisely this lack of opportunity to view, via satellite TV, an in-state network-affiliated station that this Petition intends to remedy.

Regarding the fourth factor, the County is unaware of another in-state local broadcast station carried by a satellite provider in the County that offers Atlanta- and Georgia-oriented news coverage of issues of concern to residents of the County.

### **III. EVIDENTIARY SHOWING**

The Commission adopted a standardized evidence approach for modifications and requires certain evidence be submitted. The County submits evidence as explained below responsive to the evidentiary requirements in the Commission's rules.<sup>12</sup>

- (1) A map or maps illustrating the relevant community locations and geographic features, station transmitter sites, cable system headend locations, terrain features that would affect station reception, mileage between the community and the television station transmitter site, transportation routes and any other evidence contributing to the scope of the market.
  - a. Exhibit C is the ASR Registration Search indicating the Station's transmitter site.
  - b. Exhibit D is a map indicating the approximate highway distance between the County and WXIA's main transmitter site in Atlanta, Georgia. As the map shows, the County

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<sup>12</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(b)(7).



is roughly 92 miles away by car from WXIA's main transmitter site in the Atlanta DMA.

- (2) Contour maps delineating the Station's transmitter antennae with distance and conditions to the County.
  - a. Attached as Exhibit E is a summary of results illustrating the location of the County and indicating WXIA's coverage area based on over-the-air signal strength. According to the coverage area map, the signal strength for WXIA is 78.4 in comparison to 71.9 from the Greenville NBC-affiliated local broadcast station. While the over-the-air signal strength does not impact satellite delivery, this map is evidence that assignment to the Greenville DMA is not an issue of geographical proximity to the stations. The variance in distances between the two local broadcast stations and the County does not present an obstacle.
  - b. Attached as Exhibit F is the Contour Map for WXIA. However, it is important to note that service does not stop at the contour line and over-the-air signal strength should not impact broadcast via satellite.
- (3) Available data on shopping, labor, and commuting patterns in the local market.
  - a. Attached as Exhibit G is labor/shopping patterns data. Based on a survey of Northeast Georgia Orphan County residents, including Stephens County, over 91% of respondents stated they shop locally or within the state of Georgia. Over 97% of respondents seek services such as healthcare and arts/entertainment locally or within the state of Georgia.
  - b. Also included in Exhibit G is a sampling of data denoting the economic trends connecting Stephens County with their neighboring Georgia communities. This includes retail statistics provided by Georgia Power and a page from the recent Area Labor Profile for Stephens County produced by the Georgia Department of Labor,

which highlights commuting patterns into and from Stephens County as identified in the 2010 Census.

- (4) Television station programming information derived from station logs or the local edition of the television guide.

- a. Attached as Exhibits H and I, is a recent multi-day programming lineup for WXIA, for DISH and DIRECTV, respectively, which shows that the Station broadcasts a local news program with Georgia news, sports, and weather several times a day, with “NEWS” airing at 3:00am, 3:30am, 4:00am, 4:30am, 5:00am, 5:30am, 6:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, and 11:00pm local time.

- (5) Cable system channel line-up cards or other exhibits establishing historic carriage, such as television guide listings.

- a. There has not been historic carriage of the Station in the County by satellite carriers, and therefore no evidence is being submitted for this element with respect to satellite.

The County respectfully requests a waiver from this required evidence.

- (6) Published audience data for the relevant station showing its average all day audience (i.e., the reported audience average over Sunday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-1a.m., or an equivalent time period) for both cable and noncable households or other specific audience indicia, such as station advertising and sales data or viewer contribution records.

- a. As discussed above, given the lack of historical carriage of the station in the County, Nielsen rating or other audience data would not be helpful in evaluating this Petition.

Therefore, to the extent necessary, we respectfully request a waiver of this item.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION**

In addition to the five statutory requirements, the Commission may also consider other pertinent information when necessary to develop a result that will “*better effectuate the purposes*” of the law. Section 338 directs the commission to “*afford particular attention to the value of localism.*”

Stephens County is nestled in Northeast Georgia at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a region is known for its ruggedness and scenic beauty, including such local natural attractions as the Tugaloo River and two of its reservoirs, the 900-foot-high Currahee Mountain, and 186-foot-high Toccoa Falls. Over time the county has served as an agricultural community, a railroad hub and textile production center, home of the camp Toccoa military training ground for paratroopers in World War II, and currently is home to a variety of industries and 2 college campuses as part of a growing region.

Stephens County had an estimated population of 25,751 people in 2016 and includes three municipalities – the county seat of Toccoa (8,412 persons), the Town of Avalon (207), and City of Martin (358). Stephens County is only 90 minutes north of Atlanta and 45 minutes from Athens, GA and Gainesville, GA. Primary access includes Interstate Hwy. 85 and the recently expanded State Hwy. 17. The county is also served by the 5,000-foot R.G. LeTourneau Airport and is one of three Amtrak stops in Georgia on the Crescent line that runs from New York to New Orleans.

Despite the myriad of connections to neighboring in-state communities and economies, Stephens County remains “orphaned” today. Being assigned to the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson DMA, Stephens County, Georgia residents are deprived of in-state news, politics, sports, and weather. The quality and quantity of coverage by the current local broadcast station is not an issue, but rather the content. The current local broadcast station is marketed to appeal to the residents of South and North Carolina, not the residents of Georgia. Our homes are filled with branding and marketing for North and South Carolina. Exhibit J shows the current broadcasters choice of themes and captions such as “Chronicle; South Carolina from Above,” which isolates the Georgia viewers assigned to the Greenville-Spartanburg-Asheville-Anderson DMA. Attached as Exhibit J is evidence of the “Carolina” themed media delivery of the current broadcaster.

As additional evidence of Stephens County’s connections with Georgia and metro Atlanta, on September 14, 2018, the Federal Office of Management and Budget released their “*Revised Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Delineations of These Areas.*” According to the document:

*“First introduced in the 2000 standards, Combined Statistical Areas can serve as an important geographic tool for the Federal statistical data community. They can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect broader social and economic interactions, such as wholesaling, commodity distribution, and weekend recreation activities, and are likely to be of considerable interest to regional authorities and the private sector. If specified criteria are met, adjacent Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, in various combinations, may become the components of a Combined Statistical Area. It should be noted that Combined Statistical Areas complement but do not supersede Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, which retain their separate component identities.”*

According to the September 14<sup>th</sup> memo the Toccoa Micropolitan Statistical Area was added to the Atlanta Combined Statistical Area. While this does not disavow any relationship between Stephens County and the Greenville or Anderson, SC, metropolitan areas it does echo the trends showcased in commuting and economic patterns that Toccoa residents and businesses concentrate much of their interaction with their neighboring Georgia counties. Excerpts of this memo have been included herein as Exhibit K.

Georgia has increased its capacity as a state government. Georgia has been ranked #1 for Business for five consecutive years<sup>13</sup> and is currently ranked first in production of feature film movies. Over the past few years, Northeast Georgia has been the site of many of these films. Georgia is also a major hub for transportation and worldwide travel<sup>14</sup>. Northeast Georgia is the home region for the current Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner of Economic Development and Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Yet, our nightly news is filled with the economic, entertainment, travel, and politic news of North and South Carolina.

In the past year, Georgia’s sports teams filled the national headlines. The inaugural season of the Atlanta United Major League Soccer team broke multiple records for attendance<sup>15</sup>, which have since been broken again and finds the team with an average attendance among the top 25 soccer teams in the world.

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<sup>13</sup> Arend, M. (2017, November). *Smart Money*. Retrieved from [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com)

<sup>14</sup> Transportation and the Economy. <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu>

<sup>15</sup> Roberson, D. (2017, October 23). *Atlanta United breaks more attendance records*. Retrieved from [www.ajc.com](http://www.ajc.com)

This increase in soccer was evident through all levels of the sport. Director of Georgia Soccer was quoted, *“the impact of Atlanta United will be huge. It will raise the level of interest in soccer by everyone, from media to corporate to civic to schools to park and rec programs.”*<sup>16</sup> However, area youth soccer programs have expressed frustration with the limited coverage in Stephens County and the inability to fully capitalize on the phenomena. This is in complete contrast to the 37% average increase in participation in Georgia. In professional football, our residents are forced to watch the Carolina Panthers over their in-state team, the Atlanta Falcons. The University of Georgia (UGA) is a short 50-mile ride from the County seat of Toccoa. Due to the proximity, some of our high school students attend UGA through the dual enrollment “Move on When Ready” (MOWR) program. Yet, during UGA’s path to the National Championship game, our nightly news was filled with Clemson (South Carolina) news and sports update.

Another opportunity for broadcasting in Stephens County concerns the State lottery. Georgia students attending State colleges and universities are eligible to do so through the Hope and Zell Miller Scholarship programs. These post-secondary scholarship options are made available with funding through the Georgia Lottery Program. In Stephens County, tickets are purchased in the state, but nightly broadcasts on our local stations show the South Carolina lottery. Ideally Stephens County residents should see promotions and results for the Georgia lottery programs as those directly affect Stephens County students.

With Georgia’s growing economy and increased capacity, the race for Governor and other leadership and legislative positions are important. During election cycles the paid advertisements and endorsements will increase in numbers. In the homes of satellite customers in Stephens County, these short broadcasts intended to provide information in making an education decision will be nullified as our residents will instead learn of North Carolina and South Carolina candidates. Citizens desiring information on candidates seeking to represent Stephens County Georgia in the Senate and House in both

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<sup>16</sup> Longshore, J. (2016, August 11). *Georgia Soccer DOC Jacob Daniel: “So many signs of soccer growth”*. Retrieved from [www.dirtysouthsoccer.com](http://www.dirtysouthsoccer.com)

the national and state government will lose access to this important information. Even beyond the commercials, this information will be absent from nightly news programs, televised debates, and election poll and results reporting.

Carriage of Atlanta television station in Stephens County is an issue of utmost importance to the citizens of our community. In that regard, attached as Exhibit M are public comments recently submitted to the Stephens County Board of Commissioners in support of this Petition. Over the years, countless other constituents have expressed their strong desire for Atlanta television programming to the Stephens County Board of Commissioners.

Stephens County is one that has repeatedly been identified as an “orphan” county with insufficient access to in-state programming. Congress intended to address orphan county situations such as Stephens County with the implementation of STELAR. The County seeks to remedy the lack of in state programming. Since the enactment of STELAR, Stephens County has diligently worked to compile the necessary information required for the market modification. In addition, Stephens County, as part of the four Counties exploring the potential to reassign their market designation, sought and received in 2017 the support of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Legislators, and most importantly, our citizens. Evidence of this support is provided in Exhibits L and M.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the County urges the Commission to expeditiously grant its Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Ivester, Chairperson

**LIST OF EXHIBITS**

EXHIBIT A	Dish Pre-Filing Certification Letters and Feasibility Certifications
EXHIBIT B	DirecTV Pre-Filing Certification Letters and Feasibility Certifications
EXHIBIT C	ASR registration Search Results
EXHIBIT D	Map depicting distance between broadcast antenna and County seat
EXHIBIT E	Distances between County seat and transmitters from all channels
EXHIBIT F	Contour Map
EXHIBIT G	Past Survey Data and Socio-Economic Indicators
EXHIBIT H	Programming Lineup for DISH
EXHIBIT I	Programming Lineup for DirecTV
EXHIBIT J	Current Broadcaster Coverage of Elections and Themed Coverage
EXHIBIT K	Excerpts from Federal update of Combined Statistical Area designations
EXHIBIT L	Letters of Support
EXHIBIT M	Comments from County residents

**EXHIBIT A      Dish Pre-Filing Certification Letters and Feasibility Certifications**

The following materials are from the original investigations made by four Counties – Elbert, Franklin, Hart, and Stephens County – to learn the potential for, and gauge the interest in, having their television market reassigned so as to obtain Georgia themed programming as the default broadcasting provided via local cable and satellite providers. As part of this process Franklin County submitted letters to DISH as a major satellite provider inquiring about the potential for such a change and what steps would be necessary to initiate a change. Provided herein are copies of the original letter from Franklin County and the response from DISH.



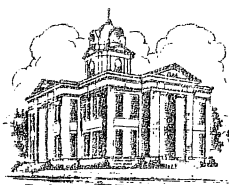
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June 27, 2016



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Ms. Alison A. Minea  
Director & Senior Counsel, Regulatory Affairs  
DISH Network L.L.C.  
1110 Vermont Ave NW  
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RE: Feasibility Certificate Request for Franklin County Georgia

Dear Sir or Madam:

Franklin County, Georgia is identified as an orphan county. As part of the Greenville Spartanburg Asheville Anderson Neilson DMA Region, our citizens are unable to access Georgia news, politics, sports, and emergency information as customers of satellite providers. Our citizens have an overwhelming interest in market modification and applauded the STELAR Act of 2014 as the initial step for progress.

Franklin County, Georgia is located northeast Georgia approximately 100 miles northeast of Atlanta, 60 miles southwest of Greenville, South Carolina, and approximately 30 miles northwest of Athens, Georgia. The county is predominantly rural but is home to five municipalities. Franklin County boasts a dynamic composition as one of the state's largest agricultural producers, home to a large recreation population on Lake Hartwell, and host to 22 miles of Interstate-85. Franklin County is one of four Georgia orphan counties included in the Greenville Spartanburg Asheville Anderson Neilson DMA Region.

While the new FCC regulations allow for local governments to file a market modification request, it is our desire to work with our satellite operators and stations. We recognize the desire of our citizens and acknowledge it is in our best interest to have the willing participation of all parties. As such, we are reaching out to initiate the voluntary pre-filing coordination process. This letter serves as our request to obtain a feasibility certification to clarify whether or not, and to what extent, carriage is technically and economically feasible.

Our citizens desire news, sports, and programming in from their home state. We look forward to your response as Franklin County works towards achieving a successful market modification petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Beth Thomas



*Alison Minea  
Director & Senior Counsel, Regulatory Affairs  
(202) 463-3709*

September 2, 2016

***VIA ECFS, EMAIL, AND FIRST CLASS MAIL***

Franklin County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 159  
Carnesville, GA 30521  
ATTN: Beth Thomas

*Re: STELAR Feasibility Certification, Market Modification Pre-Filing Coordination Letter  
for Franklin County, GA, MB Docket No. 15-71*

To the Franklin County Board of Commissioners:

DISH Network L.L.C. ("DISH") is in receipt of your pre-filing coordination letter ("Letter"),<sup>1</sup> pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules governing market modifications for satellite carriers under the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 ("STELAR").<sup>2</sup>

The Letter, and subsequent email between the undersigned and Beth Thomas, requests information regarding carriage of the following stations in the Atlanta, Georgia market into Franklin County, Georgia: WSB (ABC); WAGA (FOX); WGCL (CBS); and WXIA (NBC).

The attached Feasibility Certification pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 76.59(e) reflects DISH's response to the Letter.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Beth Thomas, Franklin County Board of Commissioners to Alison Minea, DISH Network, June 27, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> See Amendment to the Commission's Rules Concerning Market Modification, Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, *Report and Order*, MB Docket No. 15-71, FCC 15-111, ¶ 47 (Sept. 2, 2015) ("*Market Modification Order*"). See also STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR), § 102, Pub. L. No. 113-200, 128 Stat. 2059, 2060-62 (2014) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 338(l)).

Sincerely,

/s/

Alison Minea  
Director and Senior Counsel, Regulatory  
Affairs  
DISH Network L.L.C.

cc: Beth Thomas, bthomas@franklincountyga.com

Attachment: Feasibility Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e)

**FEASIBILITY CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 47 C.F.R § 76.59(e)**

1. This certification is issued by DISH Network L.L.C. (“DISH”) pursuant to the pre-filing coordination procedures contained in the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Order<sup>1</sup> governing market modifications for satellite carriers under the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (“STELAR”).<sup>2</sup>
2. This certification responds to the letter (“Letter”) from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners requesting information regarding carriage of certain Atlanta, Georgia local broadcast stations (WSB (ABC); WAGA (FOX); WGCL (CBS); and WXIA (NBC) (the “Stations”) to DISH subscribers in Franklin County, Georgia (the “County”).
3. DISH has evaluated the Letter in light of its current satellites and spot beam configurations, and has determined that, at this time, DISH is unaware of any factors that render such carriage “technically infeasible” pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e). DISH, however, reserves the right to amend this Feasibility Certification at any time due to, among other things, a satellite equipment failure or a different satellite being brought into service for the area that includes the County which has different coverage capabilities than the satellite(s) currently being used. This certification is limited to the Stations listed in paragraph 2, above.
4. To the extent that an Atlanta, Georgia local broadcast station impacted by a market modification elects retransmission consent with respect to DISH for carriage of its station in the County, DISH cannot be certain whether it will be able to successfully reach an agreement with the station. If DISH is unable to reach a retransmission consent agreement with a given station, it will be impossible for DISH to provide that station’s signal into the County. If any one of the Stations referenced in your Letter were to deny DISH the right to retransmit its signal into the County, it may be either technically or economically infeasible,<sup>3</sup> or both, for DISH to launch a customer offering with only the remaining stations that did grant retransmission consent.
5. As DISH noted in its comments during the development of the market modification rules,<sup>4</sup> an FCC grant of a market modification could result in, among other things, two different stations affiliated with the same broadcast network being authorized for satellite local-into-local carriage in the County. This could result in DISH being required to pay retransmission consent fees twice for the same broadcast network. Therefore, we must reserve the right to charge additional fees to subscribers in the County who elect to

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment to the Commission’s Rules Concerning Market Modification, Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, Report and Order, MB Docket No. 15-71, FCC 15-111, ¶ 47 (Sept. 2, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR), § 102, Pub. L. No. 113-200, 128 Stat. 2059, 2060-62 (2014) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 338(l)).

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e).

<sup>4</sup> Comments of DISH Network L.L.C. at 9, MB Docket No. 15-71 (May 13, 2015).

receive any Atlanta, Georgia local broadcast stations that DISH may be authorized to offer as a result of any market modification.

6. Without the ability to offset the additional costs associated with a market modification, it would be “economically infeasible” pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.59(e) for DISH to comply with a market modification ordered by the FCC consistent with the request described in the Letter.

The foregoing has been prepared using facts of which I have personal knowledge or upon information provided to me. I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my current knowledge, information, and belief.



Alison Minea  
Director & Senior Counsel,  
Regulatory Affairs  
DISH Network L.L.C.

Executed on September 2, 2016.

**EXHIBIT B      DirecTV Pre-Filing Certification Letters and Feasibility Certifications**

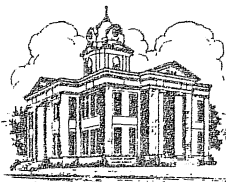
The following materials are from the original investigations made by four Counties – Elbert, Franklin, Hart, and Stephens County – to learn the potential for, and gauge the interest in, having their television market reassigned so as to obtain Georgia themed programming as the default broadcasting provided via local cable and satellite providers. As part of this process Franklin County submitted letters to DISH as a major satellite provider inquiring about the potential for such a change and what steps would be necessary to initiate a change. Provided herein are copies of the original letter from Franklin County and the response from DISH.

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**J. Thomas Bridges**  
Commission Chairman  
jtbridges@franklincountyga.com

**Beth Thomas**  
County Manager  
bthomas@franklincountyga.com

**Elaine Evans**  
County Clerk  
eevans@franklincountyga.com



**Robert L. Franklin**  
District 1 Commissioner  
rlamarfranklin@yahoo.com

**David R. Strickland**  
District 2 Commissioner  
Drstrickland@bellsouth.net

**Jeff S. Jacques**  
District 3 Commissioner  
Jsjacques@windstream.net

**Eddie Wester**  
District 4 Commissioner  
ewester@franklincountyga.com

June 27, 2016

DIRECTV, LLC  
Local-Into-Local – Market Modification  
2260 East Imperial Highway  
El Segundo, California 90245  
Attention: Vice President, Content & Programming

RE: Feasibility Certificate Request for Franklin County, Georgia

Dear Sir or Madam:

Franklin County, Georgia is identified as an orphan county. As part of the Greenville Spartanburg Asheville Anderson Neilson DMA Region, our citizens are unable to access Georgia news, politics, sports, and emergency information as customers of satellite providers. Our citizens have an overwhelming interest in market modification and applauded the STELAR Act of 2014 as the initial step for progress.

Franklin County, Georgia is located northeast Georgia approximately 100 miles northeast of Atlanta, 60 miles southwest of Greenville, South Carolina, and approximately 30 miles northwest of Athens, Georgia. The county is predominantly rural but is home to five municipalities. Franklin County boasts a dynamic composition as one of the state's largest agricultural producers, home to a large recreation population on Lake Hartwell, and host to 22 miles of Interstate-85. Franklin County is one of four Georgia orphan counties included in the Greenville Spartanburg Asheville Anderson Neilson DMA Region.

While the new FCC regulations allow for local governments to file a market modification request, it is our desire to work with our satellite operators and stations. We recognize the desire of our citizens and acknowledge it is in our best interest to have the willing participation of all parties. As such, we are reaching out to initiate the voluntary pre-filing coordination process. This letter serves as our request to obtain a feasibility certification to clarify whether or not, and to what extent, carriage is technically and economically feasible.

Our citizens desire news, sports, and programming in from their home state. We look forward to your response as Franklin County works towards achieving a successful market modification petition.

Sincerely,

Beth Thomas  
County Manager



August 2, 2016

Via E-mail and US Mail

Beth Thomas  
County Manager  
Franklin County  
PO Box 159  
Carnesville, GA 30521  
[bthomas@franklincountyga.com](mailto:bthomas@franklincountyga.com)

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Please find attached the results of your request for a preliminary evaluation of a potential market modification for stations WSB, WXIA, WAGA, and WGCL in Franklin County, GA.

DIRECTV's engineering staff was given the areas to evaluate for our Denver, CO spot beams, and have found that:

- DIRECTV's spot beams cover **all** current zip codes in Franklin County

DIRECTV will forward the results of this preliminary evaluation to the FCC for their records.

Thank you for your letter and your interest in DIRECTV programming.

Sincerely,

DIRECTV



# Form of Certification Regarding Spot Beam Coverage

1. My name is Phil Goswitz. I am SVP of Engineering at DIRECTV. As such, I am responsible for determining service areas for television stations carried on DIRECTV's spot beams.
2. DIRECTV has reviewed the request to add the communities listed below to the local television market for the station indicated.

Station	State	County
WXIA	GA	FRANKLIN

3. DIRECTV has analyzed, with respect to each zip code associated with this request, the expected performance against specific performance criteria. The following factors have been included in this analysis:
- The measured performance of the spot beam covering this Television Station's local market.
  - Estimated atmospheric effects for reception of the signal.
  - Estimated levels of interference.
  - The amount of capacity currently used, and reasonably expected to be used, on the spot beam.
  - The target availability figure used for all television stations offered on the spot beam.
4. From this analysis, DIRECTV has derived the following metrics, which it has used to evaluate the potential to provide service in the zip code(s) in question:
- Signal availability.
  - Clear sky signal margin.
  - Total carrier-to- interference ratio.
5. DIRECTV has conducted this analysis in substantially the same manner and using substantially the same parameters used to determine the geographic area in which it currently offers stations carried on the spot beam.
6. Based on this analysis, DIRECTV:
- ☒ HD ☒ SD Can provide service to all the zip codes associated with this request.\*
- ☐ HD ☐ SD Cannot provide service to any zip code associated with this request because reception of the signal does not meet the minimum performance thresholds for DIRECTV's service.
- ☐ HD ☐ SD Cannot provide service to some zip codes associated with this request because reception of the signal does not meet the minimum performance thresholds for DIRECTV's service.\* The list of unserved zip codes is attached.

\* IMPORTANT: SD coverage will no longer be available after 2018/2019 when the existing MPEG 2 satellite is removed from service.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 8-1-16  
Date

Signature

Monday, July 25, 2016

**EXHIBIT C      ASR registration Search Results**

The following document was produced via a search on the [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) web site to identify the location of the broadcaster's closest primary transmission antennae.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
ANTENNA STRUCTURE REGISTRATION



OWNER: Pacific and Southern, LLC

FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0024376113

Pacific and Southern, LLC TEGNA, Inc. 7950 Jones Branch Dr McLean, VA 22107	Antenna Structure Registration Number 1020431		
	Issue Date 09/29/2017		
Location of Antenna Structure 110 ARIZONA AVE ATLANTA, GA 30307 County: DEKALB	Ground Elevation (AMSL) 306.9 meters		
	Overall Height Above Ground (AGL) 317.6 meters		
Latitude 33- 45- 24.0 N	Longitude 084- 19- 55.0 W	NAD83	Overall Height Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) 624.5 meters
Center of Array Coordinates N/A			Type of Structure TOWER Free standing or Guyed Structure used for Communications Purposes
Painting and Lighting Requirements: FCC Paragraphs 1, 3, 7, 16, 21			
Conditions:			

This registration is effective upon completion of the described antenna structure and notification to the Commission. **YOU MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OR CANCELLATION OF YOUR PROJECT, please file FCC Form 854.** To file electronically, connect to the antenna structure registration system by pointing your web browser to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/antenna>. Electronic filing is recommended. You may also file manually by submitting a paper copy of FCC Form 854. Use purpose code "NT" for notification of completion of construction; use purpose code "CA" to cancel your registration.

The Antenna Structure Registration is not an authorization to construct radio facilities or transmit radio signals. It is necessary that all radio equipment on this structure be covered by a valid FCC license or construction permit.

**You must immediately provide a copy of this Registration to all tenant licensees and permittees sited on the structure described on this Registration (although not required, you may want to use Certified Mail to obtain proof of receipt), and display your Registration Number at the site. See reverse for important information about the Commission's Antenna Structure Registration rules.**

You must comply with all applicable FCC obstruction marking and lighting requirements, as set forth in Part 17 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. Part 17). These rules include, but are not limited to:

**Posting the Registration Number:** The Antenna Structure Registration Number must be displayed in a conspicuous place so that it is readily visible near the base of the antenna structure. Materials used to display the Registration Number must be weather-resistant and of sufficient size to be easily seen at the base of the antenna structure. Exceptions exist for certain historic structures. See 47 C.F.R. 17.4(g)-(h).

**Inspecting lights and equipment:** The obstruction lighting must be observed at least every 24 hours in order to detect any outages or malfunctions. Lighting equipment, indicators, and associated devices must be inspected at least once every three months.

**Reporting outages and malfunctions:** When any top steady-burning light or a flashing light (in any position) burns out or malfunctions, the outage must be reported to the nearest FAA Flight Service Station, unless corrected within 30 minutes. The FAA must again be notified when the light is restored. The owner must also maintain a log of these outages and malfunctions.

**Maintaining assigned painting:** The antenna structure must be repainted as often as necessary to maintain good visibility.

**Complying with environmental rules:** If you certified that grant of this registration would not have a significant environmental impact, you must nevertheless maintain all pertinent records and be ready to provide documentation supporting this certification and compliance with the rules, in the event that such information is requested by the Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 1.1307(d).

**Updating information:** The owner must notify the FCC of proposed modifications to this structure; of any change in ownership; or, within 30 days of dismantlement of the structure.

You can find additional information at [\[insert link\]](#) or by calling (877) 480-3201 (TTY 717-338-2824).

**Registration Number:** 1020431

**Issue Date:** 09/29/2017

#### OBSTRUCTION MARKING AND LIGHTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR ANTENNA STRUCTURES

It is to be expressly understood that the issuance of the below specifications is in no way to be considered as precluding additional or modified markings or lighting as may hereafter be required under the provisions of Section 303(q) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

1 Antenna structures shall be painted throughout their height with alternate bands of aviation surface orange and white, terminating with aviation surface orange bands at both top and bottom. The width of the bands shall be equal and approximately one-seventh the height of the structure, provided however, that the bands shall not be more than 30.48 meters (100 feet) nor less than .46 meters (1 1/2 feet) in width. All towers shall be cleaned or repainted as often as necessary to maintain good visibility.

3 There shall be installed at the top of the structure one 300 m/m electric code beacon equipped with two 620- or 700-watt lamps (PS-40, Code Beacon type), both lamps to burn simultaneously, and equipped with aviation red color filters. Where a rod or other construction of not more than 6.10 meters (20 feet) in height and incapable of supporting this beacon is mounted on top of the structure and it is determined that this additional construction does not permit unobstructed visibility of the code beacon from aircraft at any normal angle of approach, there shall be installed two such beacons positioned so as to insure unobstructed visibility of at least one of the beacons from aircraft at any normal angle of approach. The beacons shall be equipped with a flashing mechanism producing not more than 40 flashes per minute nor less than 12 flashes per minute with a period of darkness equal to approximately one-half of the luminous period.

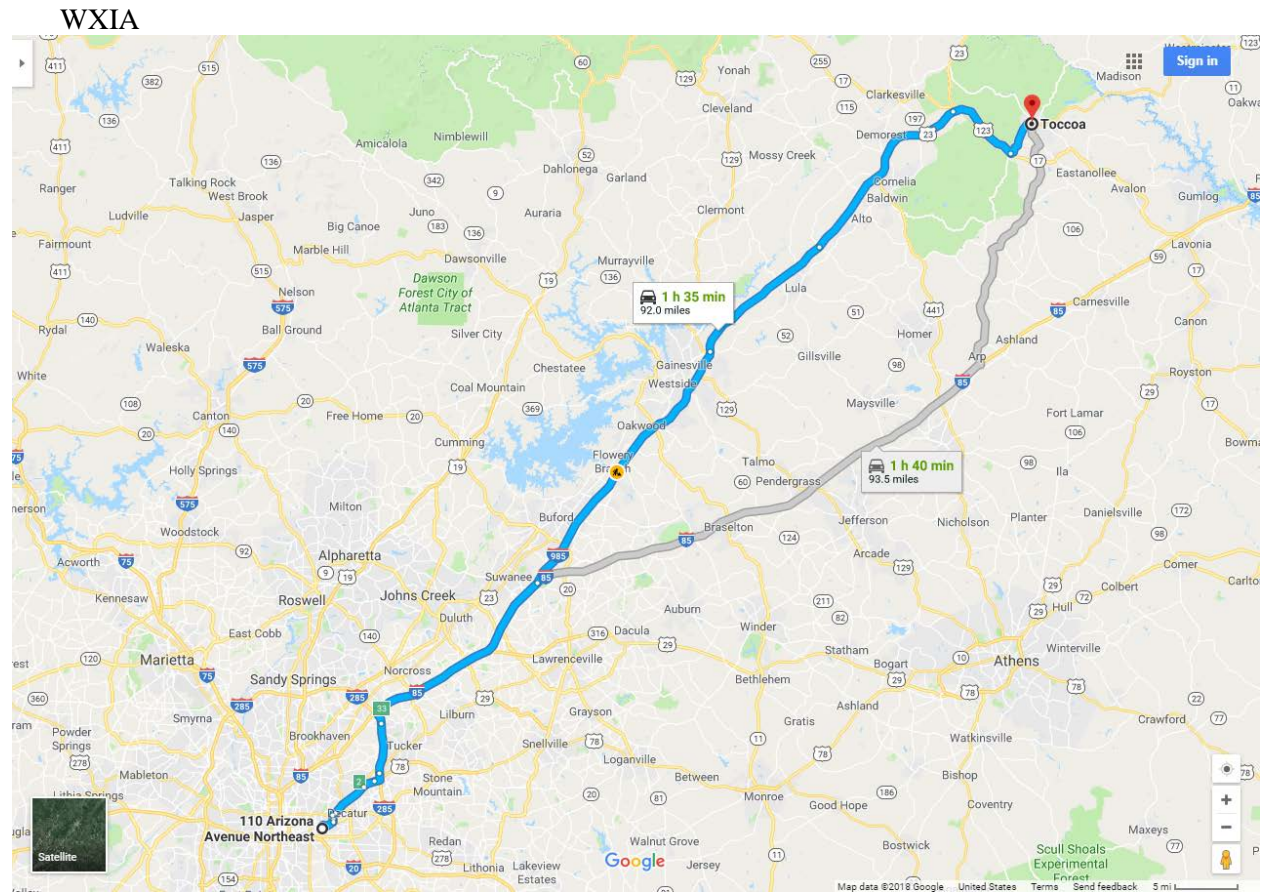
7 On levels at approximately four-sevenths and two-sevenths of the overall height of the tower one similar flashing 300 m/m electric code beacon shall be installed in such position within the tower proper that the structural members will not impair the visibility of this beacon from aircraft at any normal angle of approach. In the event these beacons cannot be installed in a manner to insure unobstructed visibility of the beacons from aircraft at any normal angle of approach, there shall be installed two such beacons at each level. Each beacon shall be mounted on the outside of diagonally opposite corners or opposite sides of the tower at the prescribed height.

16 On levels at approximately six-sevenths, five-sevenths, three-sevenths and one-seventh of the overall height of the tower, at least two 116- or 125-watt lamps (A21/TS) enclosed in an aviation red obstruction light globes shall be installed on each outside corner of the structure.

21 All lights shall burn continuously or shall be controlled by a light sensitive device adjusted so that the lights will be turned on at a north sky light intensity level of about 35 foot candles and turned off at a north sky light intensity level of about 58 foot candles.

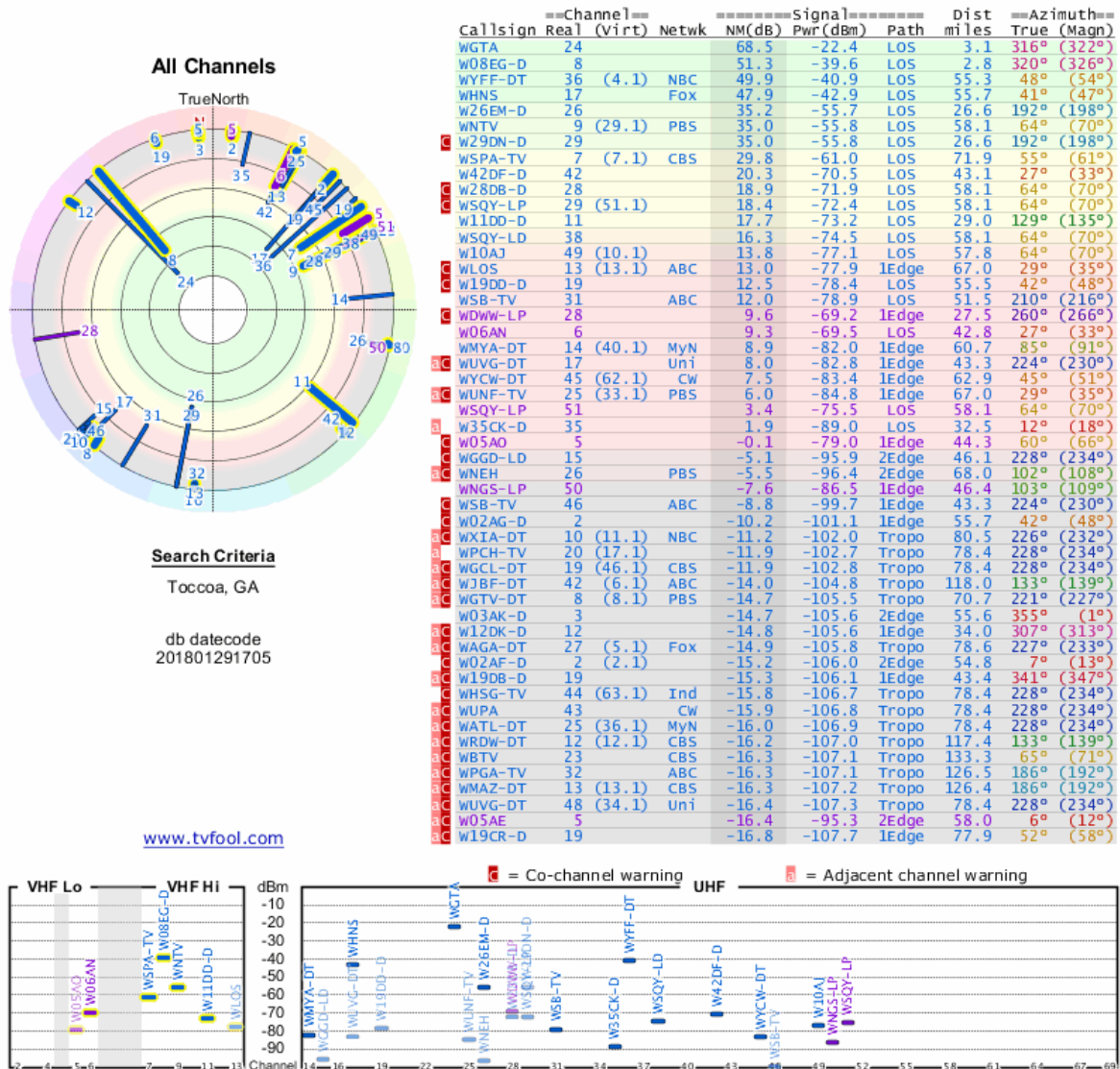
**EXHIBIT D      Map depicting distance between broadcast antenna and County seat**

The following image was generated using Google maps to illustrate the relative distance between the broadcaster's closest major transmission antenna and the Stephens County seat of Toccoa. Toccoa is approximately 82 linear miles from downtown Atlanta.



**EXHIBIT E Distances between County seat and transmitters from all channels**

This information was generated from Signal Analysis Tool available via the [www.TVfool.com](http://www.TVfool.com), a web site providing information for consumers in assessing broadcast signal accessibility to specific areas. The Signal Analysis Tool “generates a ‘radar plot’ report that summarizes the signal strength and direction of all the channels in the area.”



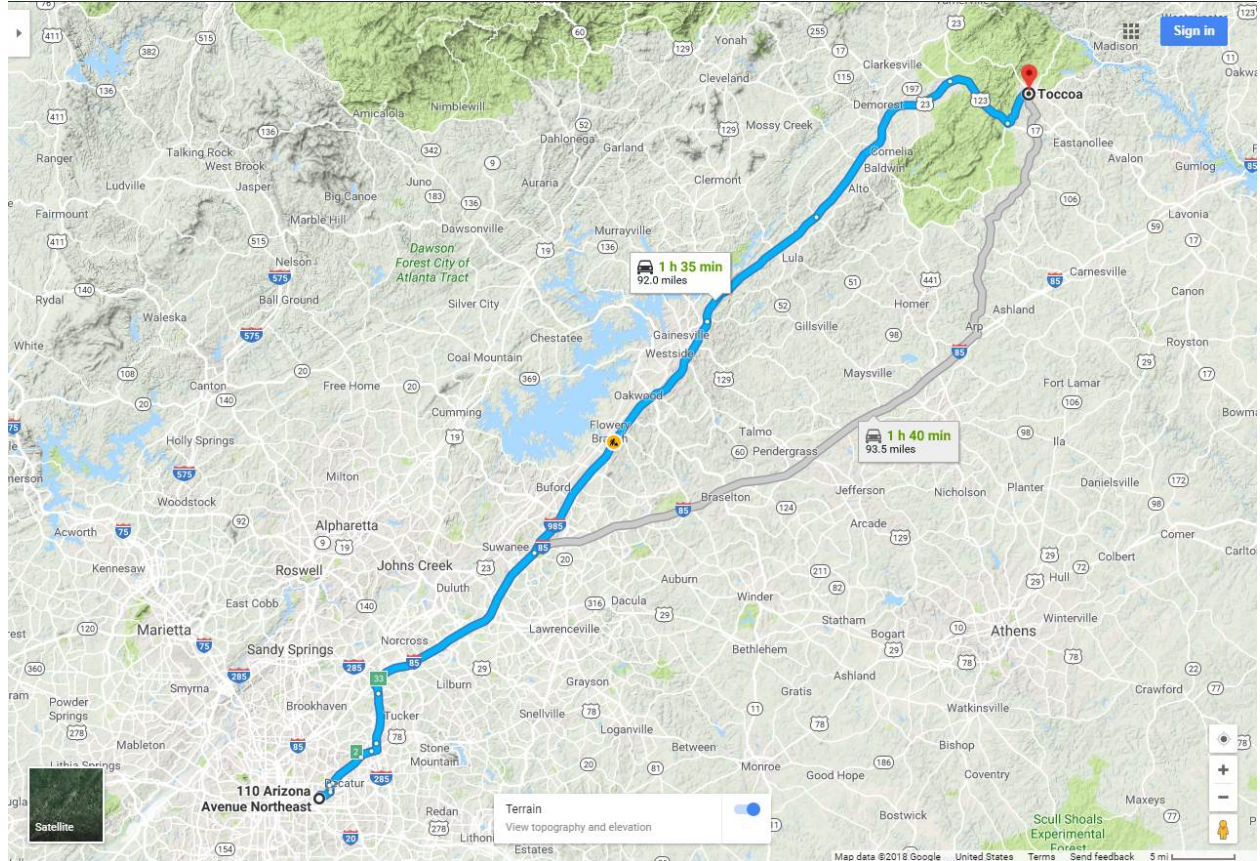
Affiliate	Current Broadcaster		Requested Broadcaster	
ABC	WLOS	67.0	WSB	43.5 / 51.5
CBS	WSPA	71.9	WGCL	78.4
NBC	WYFF	55.3	WXIA	80.5
Fox	WHNS	55.7	WAGA	78.6



**EXHIBIT F Contour Map**

The following image was generated using Google maps to illustrate the relative topographic conditions between the broadcaster's closest major transmission antenna and the Stephens County seat of Toccoa. Toccoa is approximately 82 linear miles from downtown Atlanta, most of which is comprised of low-rolling hills. The only significant feature that may interfere with broadcast reception is Currahee Mountain and the related foothills to the north that serve as a precursor to the larger Blue Ridge Mountains further north.

WXIA





**EXHIBIT G      Past Survey Data and Socio-Economic Indicators**

The following is a summary of results from an 2017 online survey promoted to residents within the four counties – Elbert, Franklin, Hart, and Stephens Counties - that explored broadcast preferences and possibly amending their “orphan” status. The survey was conducted via the web site [www.SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com) and consisted of 8 questions concerning consumer preferences regarding available local broadcasting. The survey was available for 1 month and was promoted via local media outlets, County web sites and public meeting announcements, and shared via email through identified stakeholder groups such as the local Chambers of Commerce.

Participants expressed overwhelming support (94.7%) for gaining access to Atlanta-based channels, with Stephens County residents providing the most responses (33%) of the 1,769 collected.

Also included are documents from Georgia Power and the Georgia Department of Labor highlighting various economic indicators (retail trends, commuting patterns...) that demonstrate the connections between Stephens County and their neighboring Georgia communities.

# Franklin County Board of Commissioners

## Northeast Georgia Orphan County -- Citizen Survey

### Survey Information

Survey Conducted by Survey Monkey

Results as of May 15, 2017

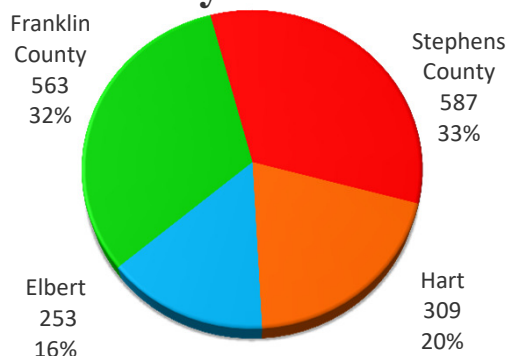
Joint Effort by all NEGA Orphan Counties

Total Respondents: 1,769

*\*note some questions skipped by participants*

Number of Questions: 8

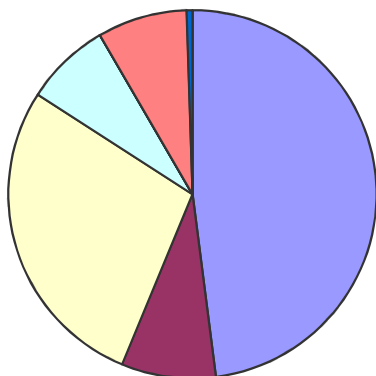
### County of Residence



	Yes	No	Maybe
Would you be interested in receiving in-state television broadcast (Atlanta stations)?	94.70%	5.30%	n/a
Would you be willing to pay more for in-state television broadcast?	18.80%	43.00%	38.30%
What is the main reason you are interested in switching to in-state television broadcasts?	<b>Sports</b> 2.00% <b>News</b> 14.70% <b>Politics</b> 1.90% <b>All of the Above</b> 81.40%		
	Local	Georgia	South Carolina
Where do you typically shop?	47.90%	43.30%	8.80%
Where do you typically seek services such as healthcare, arts/entertainment, car repair, etc ?	46.00%	51.20%	2.80%

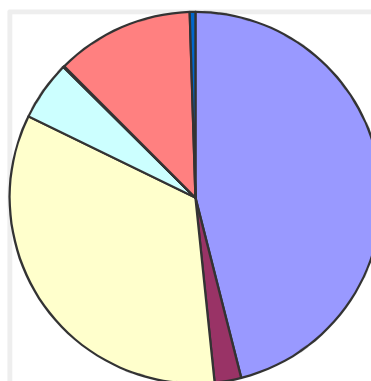
### Shopping Patterns

- Local
- Anderson, SC
- Athens, GA
- Atlanta, GA
- Augusta, GA
- Gainesville, GA
- Greenville, SC



### Service Delivery

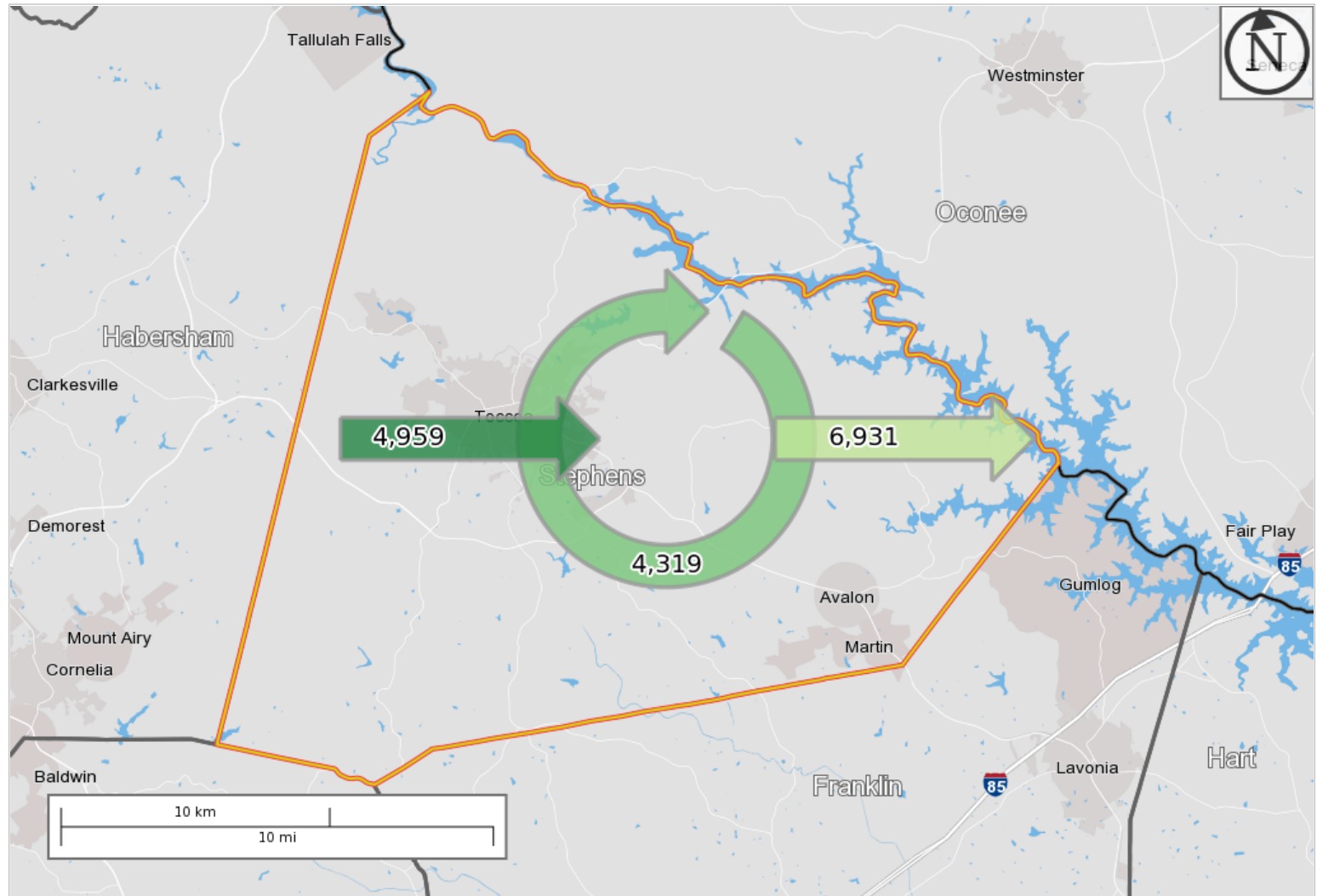
- Local
- Anderson, SC
- Athens, GA
- Atlanta, GA
- Augusta, GA
- Gainesville, GA
- Greenville, SC



## Inflow/Outflow Report - Stephens County Primary Jobs for All Workers in 2014

Created by the U.S. Census Bureau's OnTheMap <http://onthemap.ces.census.gov> on 10/24/2016

### Inflow/Outflow Counts of Primary Jobs for Selection Area in 2014 All Workers



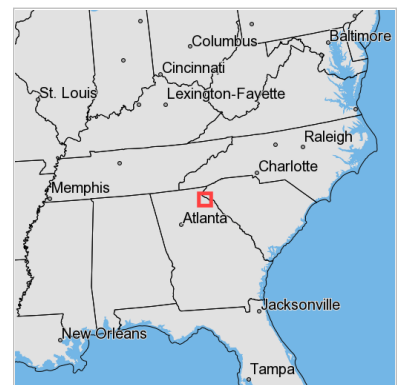
#### Map Legend

##### Selection Areas

Analysis Selection

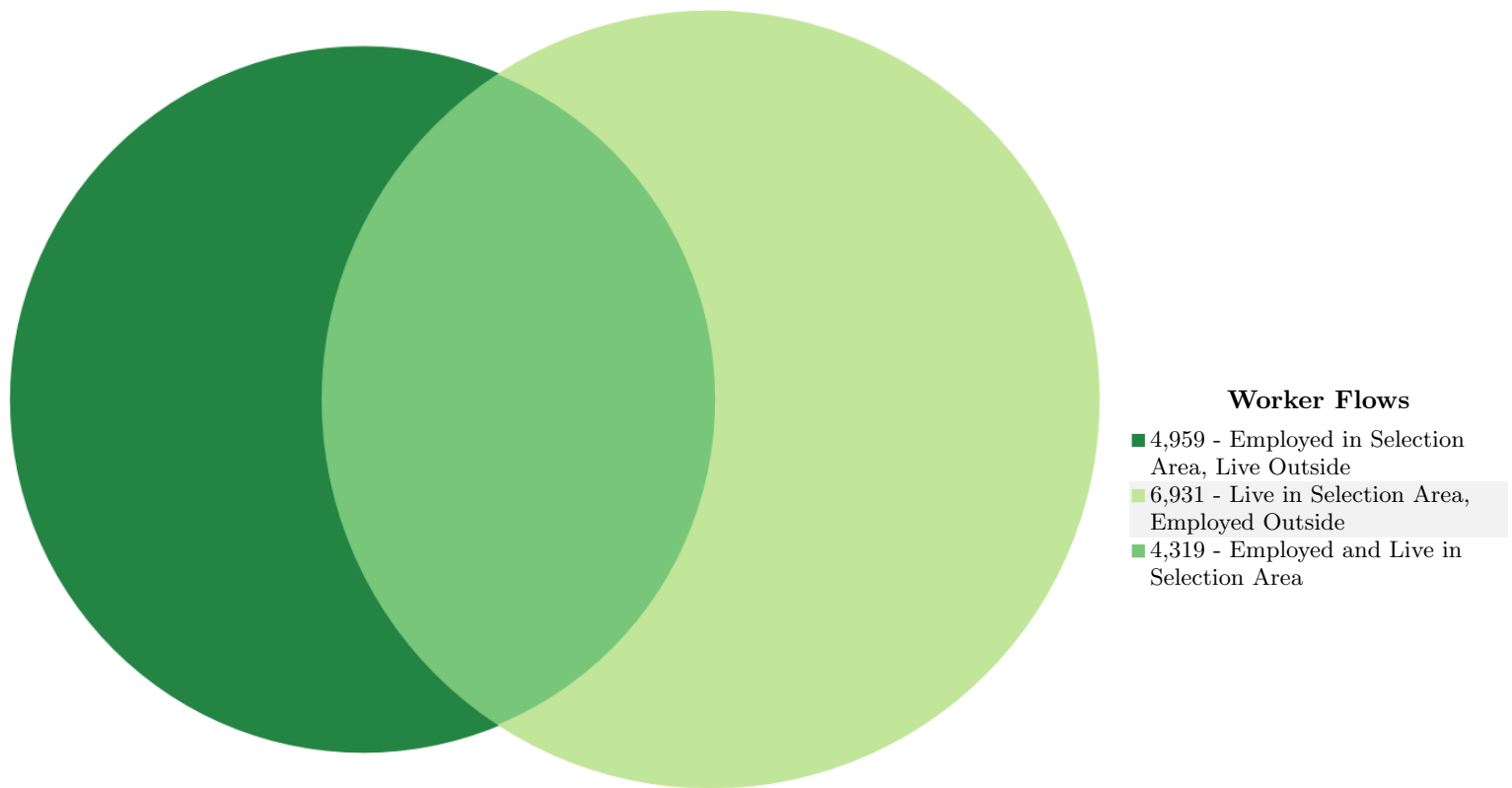
##### Inflow/Outflow

- Employed and Live in Selection Area
  - Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
  - Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside
- Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.



## Inflow/Outflow Counts of Primary Jobs for Selection Area in 2014

All Workers



## Inflow/Outflow Counts of Primary Jobs for Selection Area in 2014

All Workers

Worker Totals and Flows	2014	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	9,278	100.0
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	4,959	53.4
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	4,319	46.6
Living in the Selection Area	11,250	100.0
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	6,931	61.6
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	4,319	38.4

## Additional Information

### Analysis Settings

Analysis Type	Inflow/Outflow
Selection area as	N/A
Year(s)	2014
Job Type	Primary Jobs
Selection Area	Stephens County, GA from Counties
Selected Census Blocks	1,447
Analysis Generation Date	10/24/2016 17:06 - OnTheMap 6.5
Code Revision	27fb9bc4fbd09322b53aa80fc41c8d9604925f1a
LODES Data Version	20160219

### Data Sources

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2014).

### Notes

1. Race, Ethnicity, Educational Attainment, and Sex statistics are beta release results and are not available before 2009.
2. Educational Attainment is only produced for workers aged 30 and over.
3. Firm Age and Firm Size statistics are beta release results for All Private jobs and are not available before 2011.

# Retail MarketPlace Profile

Stephens County, GA 9  
Stephens County, GA (13257)  
Geography: County

Prepared by Esri

## Summary Demographics

2016 Population	26,274
2016 Households	10,219
2016 Median Disposable Income	\$31,230
2016 Per Capita Income	\$20,838

Industry Summary	NAICS	Demand (Retail Potential)	Supply (Retail Sales)	Retail Gap	Leakage/Surplus Factor	Number of Businesses
Total Retail Trade and Food & Drink	44-45,722	\$282,826,109	\$407,045,717	-\$124,219,608	-18.0	234
Total Retail Trade	44-45	\$258,702,591	\$386,234,033	-\$127,531,442	-19.8	184
Total Food & Drink	722	\$24,123,518	\$20,811,684	\$3,311,834	7.4	50

Industry Group	NAICS	Demand (Retail Potential)	Supply (Retail Sales)	Retail Gap	Leakage/Surplus Factor	Number of Businesses
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	441	\$61,201,679	\$82,626,315	-\$21,424,636	-14.9	34
Automobile Dealers	4411	\$51,054,505	\$70,306,205	-\$19,251,700	-15.9	13
Other Motor Vehicle Dealers	4412	\$6,490,503	\$3,697,327	\$2,793,176	27.4	5
Auto Parts, Accessories & Tire Stores	4413	\$3,656,671	\$8,622,783	-\$4,966,112	-40.4	16
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	442	\$7,097,342	\$17,216,577	-\$10,119,235	-41.6	11
Furniture Stores	4421	\$4,459,384	\$10,584,806	-\$6,125,422	-40.7	7
Home Furnishings Stores	4422	\$2,637,958	\$6,631,771	-\$3,993,813	-43.1	4
Electronics & Appliance Stores	443	\$13,057,433	\$8,199,547	\$4,857,886	22.9	11
Bldg Materials, Garden Equip. & Supply Stores	444	\$11,753,405	\$27,488,668	-\$15,735,263	-40.1	14
Bldg Material & Supplies Dealers	4441	\$10,435,243	\$26,975,522	-\$16,540,279	-44.2	12
Lawn & Garden Equip & Supply Stores	4442	\$1,318,162	\$513,146	\$805,016	44.0	2
Food & Beverage Stores	445	\$48,747,584	\$64,101,380	-\$15,353,796	-13.6	20
Grocery Stores	4451	\$43,181,229	\$62,472,631	-\$19,291,402	-18.3	17
Specialty Food Stores	4452	\$3,375,600	\$0	\$3,375,600	100.0	0
Beer, Wine & Liquor Stores	4453	\$2,190,755	\$1,628,749	\$562,006	14.7	3
Health & Personal Care Stores	446,4461	\$16,733,154	\$51,531,590	-\$34,798,436	-51.0	22
Gasoline Stations	447,4471	\$20,275,633	\$30,309,053	-\$10,033,420	-19.8	21
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	448	\$9,786,205	\$3,313,991	\$6,472,214	49.4	10
Clothing Stores	4481	\$6,651,518	\$2,203,737	\$4,447,781	50.2	7
Shoe Stores	4482	\$1,196,035	\$601,313	\$594,722	33.1	1
Jewelry, Luggage & Leather Goods Stores	4483	\$1,938,652	\$508,941	\$1,429,711	58.4	2
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book & Music Stores	451	\$6,973,538	\$3,161,124	\$3,812,414	37.6	6
Sporting Goods/Hobby/Musical Instr Stores	4511	\$6,081,291	\$2,039,343	\$4,041,948	49.8	4
Book, Periodical & Music Stores	4512	\$892,247	\$1,121,781	-\$229,534	-11.4	2
General Merchandise Stores	452	\$47,516,724	\$83,391,791	-\$35,875,067	-27.4	12
Department Stores Excluding Leased Depts.	4521	\$34,870,006	\$78,059,106	-\$43,189,100	-38.2	6
Other General Merchandise Stores	4529	\$12,646,718	\$5,332,685	\$7,314,033	40.7	6
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	453	\$10,112,398	\$14,622,136	-\$4,509,738	-18.2	22
Florists	4531	\$469,434	\$219,845	\$249,589	36.2	2
Office Supplies, Stationery & Gift Stores	4532	\$1,295,105	\$1,013,729	\$281,376	12.2	2
Used Merchandise Stores	4533	\$1,048,049	\$2,015,319	-\$967,270	-31.6	9
Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4539	\$7,299,810	\$11,373,243	-\$4,073,433	-21.8	9
Nonstore Retailers	454	\$5,447,496	\$271,861	\$5,175,635	90.5	1
Electronic Shopping & Mail-Order Houses	4541	\$3,826,454	\$0	\$3,826,454	100.0	0
Vending Machine Operators	4542	\$227,497	\$271,861	-\$44,364	-8.9	1
Direct Selling Establishments	4543	\$1,393,545	\$0	\$1,393,545	100.0	0
Food Services & Drinking Places	722	\$24,123,518	\$20,811,684	\$3,311,834	7.4	50
Full-Service Restaurants	7221	\$11,443,935	\$9,562,838	\$1,881,097	9.0	29
Limited-Service Eating Places	7222	\$11,115,884	\$11,182,364	-\$66,480	-0.3	19
Special Food Services	7223	\$275,288	\$66,482	\$208,806	61.1	2
Drinking Places - Alcoholic Beverages	7224	\$1,288,411	\$0	\$1,288,411	100.0	0

Data Note: Supply (retail sales) estimates sales to consumers by establishments. Sales to businesses are excluded. Demand (retail potential) estimates the expected amount spent by consumers at retail establishments. Supply and demand estimates are in current dollars. The Leakage/Surplus Factor presents a snapshot of retail opportunity. This is a measure of the relationship between supply and demand that ranges from +100 (total leakage) to -100 (total surplus). A positive value represents 'leakage' of retail opportunity outside the trade area. A negative value represents a surplus of retail sales, a market where customers are drawn in from outside the trade area. The Retail Gap represents the difference between Retail Potential and Retail Sales. Esri uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to classify businesses by their primary type of economic activity. Retail establishments are classified into 27 industry groups in the Retail Trade sector, as well as four industry groups within the Food Services & Drinking Establishments subsector. For more information on the Retail MarketPlace data, please click the link below to view the Methodology Statement.

<http://www.esri.com/library/whitepapers/pdfs/esri-data-retail-marketplace.pdf>

Source: Esri and Infogroup. Retail MarketPlace 2016 Release 1 (2015 data in 2016 geography) Copyright 2016 Infogroup, Inc. All rights reserved.

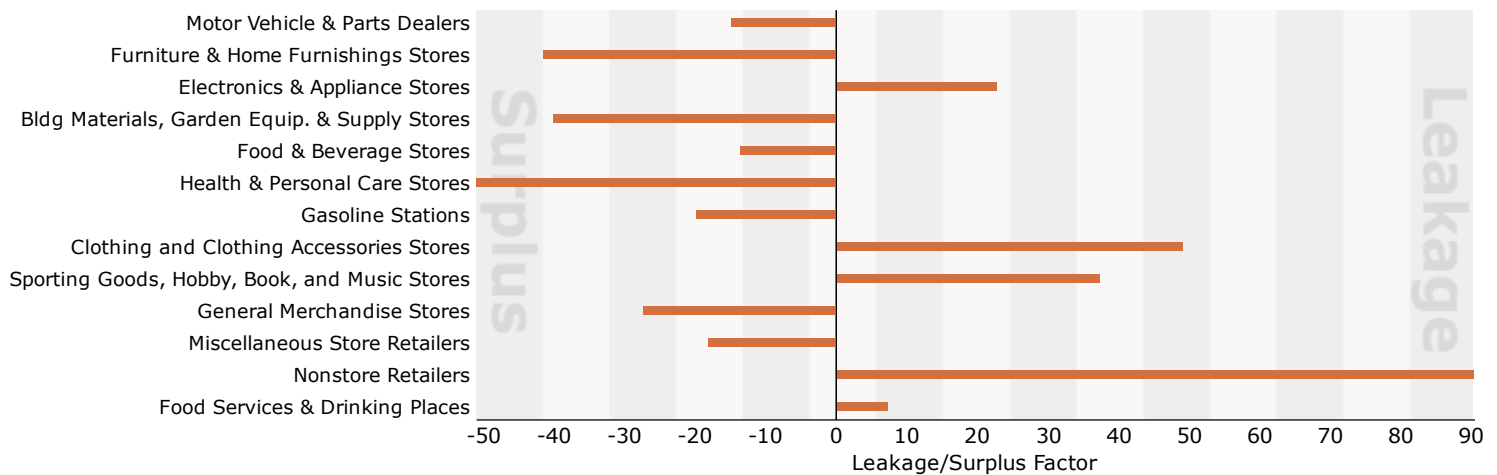
October 24, 2016

## Retail MarketPlace Profile

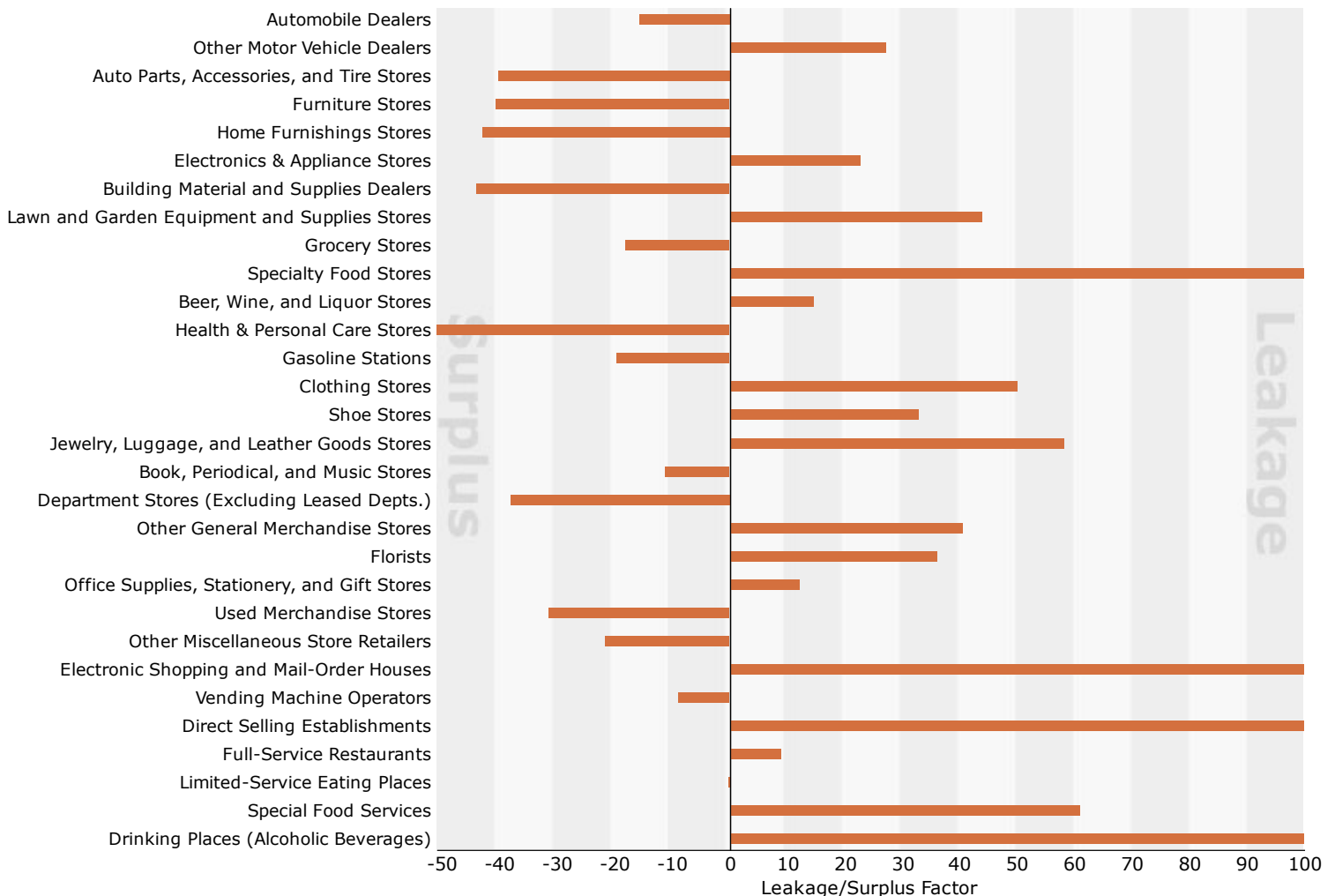
Stephens County, GA 9  
Stephens County, GA (13257)  
Geography: County

Prepared by Esri

### Leakage/Surplus Factor by Industry Subsector



### Leakage/Surplus Factor by Industry Group

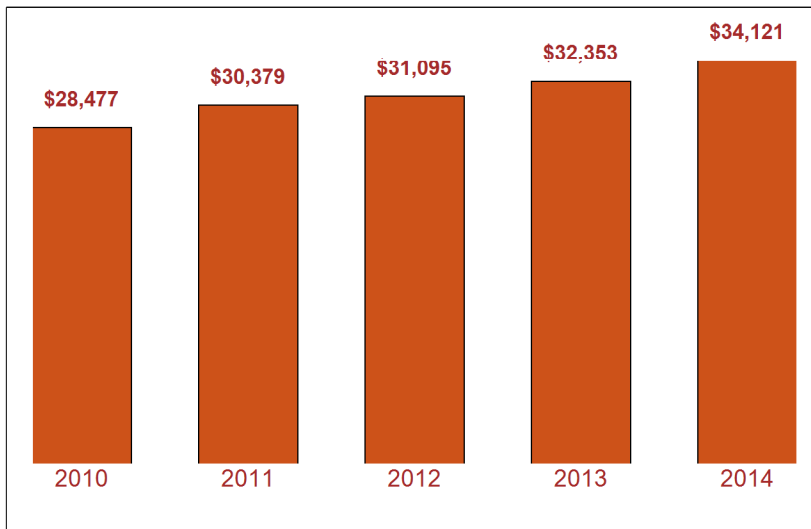


Source: Esri and Infogroup. Retail MarketPlace 2016 Release 1 (2015 data in 2016 geography) Copyright 2016 Infogroup, Inc. All rights reserved.

October 24, 2016

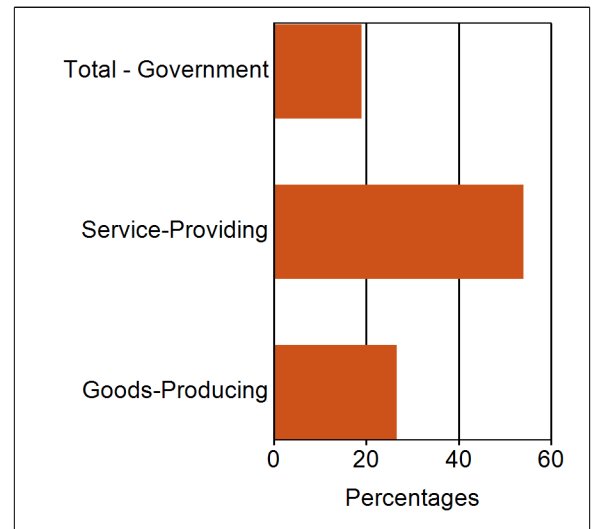
## Stephens Per Capita Income

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



## Stephens Industry Mix 2016

Source: See Industry Mix data on Page 2.



## Top Ten Largest Employers - 2016\*

### Stephens

Eaton Aeroquip, LLC  
 Employment Staffing, Inc.  
 GEM Southeast, Inc.  
 Heritage Healthcare of Toccoa, LLC  
 Patterson Pump Co  
 Pruitt Corporation  
 Sage Automotive Interiors  
 Toccoa Clinic Medical Associates  
 Toccoa Falls College  
 Walmart

\*Note: Represents employment covered by unemployment insurance excluding all government agencies except correctional institutions, state and local hospitals, state colleges and universities. Data shown for the Third Quarter of 2016. Employers are listed alphabetically by area, not by the number of employees.

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

### Stephens Area

Autozoners, Inc.  
 Carry-On Trailer, Inc.  
 Ethicon, Inc.  
 Georgia Department of Corrections  
 Ingles Markets, Inc.  
 Mt. Vernon Mills, Inc.  
 Patterson Pump Co  
 PCS  
 Piedmont College  
 Pruitt Corporation

### COUNTY

Franklin  
 Franklin  
 Habersham  
 Habersham  
 Habersham  
 Habersham  
 Habersham  
 Stephens  
 Habersham  
 Habersham  
 Stephens

## Commuting Patterns

### EMPLOYED RESIDENTS OF

#### Stephens

COUNTY WHERE EMPLOYED	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Stephens, GA	7,175	69.3
Franklin, GA	993	9.6
Habersham, GA	600	5.8
Hall, GA	321	3.1
Oconee, SC	188	1.8
White, GA	175	1.7
Clarke, GA	127	1.2
Hart, GA	120	1.2
Other	651	6.3
<b>Total Residents:</b>	<b>10,350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### PERSONS WORKING IN

#### Stephens

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Stephens, GA	7,175	68.3
Franklin, GA	914	8.7
Habersham, GA	698	6.6
Hart, GA	309	2.9
White, GA	217	2.1
Banks, GA	208	2.0
Oconee, SC	179	1.7
Orange, FL	99	0.9
Other	614	5.8
<b>Total Residents:</b>	<b>10,512</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Other category represents employment from U.S. counties only.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2010 County-To-County Worker Flow Files.



**EXHIBIT H      Programming Lineup for DISH**


	Sunday Apr, 22	Monday Apr, 23	Tuesday Apr, 24
12 AM	Saturday Night Live (HD, Repeat, Comedy, 1/13/2018, TV-14)	American Ninja Warrior Orlando Qualifying (Hour 2) (HD, Sports, 6/22/2015, TV-PG)	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
12:30 AM			Late Night with Seth Meyers (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
1 AM	Your Move with Andy Stanley (Information, TV-G)	Paid Program (TV-G)	Last Call with Carson Daly (New, Entertainment, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
1:30 AM	Atlanta Tech Edge (Sports, TV-PG)	Paid Program (TV-G)	
2 AM	LX.TV: 1st Look Alternative Fitness (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	Meet the Press (HD, Repeat, News, 4/22/2018)	Extra (HD, New, Entertainment, TV-14)
2:30 AM	Paid Program (TV-G)		NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
3 AM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Early Today (New, News, TV-G)	11 Alive News Tonight (Repeat, News)
3:30 AM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Early Today (New, News, TV-G)	
4 AM	Open House NYC Presents George to the Rescue: (New, News, TV-G)	Early Today (New, News, TV-G)	Early Today (New, News, TV-G)
4:30 AM	Open House NYC Presents George to the Rescue: (New, News, TV-G)	11 Alive's Wake Up with Chesley (New, News)	11 Alive's Wake Up with Chesley (New, News)
5 AM	On the Money (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	Morning Rush (New, News)	Morning Rush (New, News)
5:30 AM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Morning Rush (New, News)	Morning Rush (New, News)
6 AM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Morning Rush (New, News)	Morning Rush (New, News)
6:30 AM	In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley Planning Without God (Repeat, Religious, TV-G)		
7 AM	Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah Facing the Moment (Repeat, Religious, TV-G)	Today (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	Today (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
7:30 AM			
8 AM			
8:30 AM			
9 AM	11 Alive Weekend Mornings (New, News)	Megyn Kelly TODAY (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018)	Megyn Kelly TODAY (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018)
9:30 AM			
10 AM	Meet the Press (HD, New, News, 4/22/2018)	Today with Kathie Lee & Hoda (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018)	Today with Kathie Lee & Hoda (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018)
10:30 AM			
11 AM	Atlanta Business Chronicle's Biz (Interview)	Atlanta & Company (New, Information)	Atlanta & Company (New, Information)
11:30 AM	Atlanta Tech Edge (Sports, TV-PG)		
12 PM	Paid Program (TV-G)		
12:30 PM	On the Money (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	The List (HD, Entertainment)	The List (HD, Entertainment)
1 PM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Days of Our Lives (New, Drama, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	Days of Our Lives (New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
1:30 PM	Impractical Jokers HellCopter (New, Comedy, 4/23/2018, TV-14)		
2 PM	Paid Program (TV-G)	Daily Blast Live (HD, Entertainment)	Daily Blast Live (HD, Entertainment)
2:30 PM	Impractical Jokers Stripped of Dignity (New, Comedy, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	Daily Blast Live (HD, Entertainment)	Daily Blast Live (HD, Entertainment)

EXHIBIT H: Programming Lineup for DISH

<b>3 PM</b>	<b>2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs</b> Eastern Conference First Round, Game 6: Pittsburgh Penguins at Philadelphia Flyers from Wells Fargo Center (Sports, 4/22/2018)	<b>Dr. Phil</b> Our Daughter is Starving Herself to Death and It's Killing Our Family (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-	<b>Dr. Phil</b> Our Daughter's Starving Herself to Death; Can Jordan Be Saved? (HD, New, Interview, 4/24/2018, TV-
<b>3:30 PM</b>		<b>The Ellen DeGeneres Show</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Ellen DeGeneres Show</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
<b>4 PM</b>		<b>11Alive @ Five</b> (New, News)	<b>11Alive @ Five</b> (New, News)
<b>4:30 PM</b>			
<b>5 PM</b>			
<b>5:30 PM</b>			
<b>6 PM</b>	<b>11 Alive Weekend News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)	<b>11 Alive News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)	<b>11 Alive News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)
<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/22/2018, TV-G)	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
<b>7 PM</b>	<b>Dateline NBC</b> Silent No More (HD, New, True, 4/22/2018, TV-PG)	<b>Wheel of Fortune</b> Best Friends (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>Wheel of Fortune</b> Best Friends (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
<b>7:30 PM</b>		<b>Jeopardy!</b> (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>Jeopardy!</b> (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
<b>8 PM</b>	<b>Little Big Shots</b> Too Many Chefs (HD, New, True, 4/22/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Voice</b> Live Top 12 Performances (HD, New, True, 4/23/2018, TV-PG)	<b>The Voice</b> Live Top 12 Eliminations (HD, New, True, 4/24/2018, TV-PG)
<b>8:30 PM</b>			
<b>9 PM</b>	<b>Genius Junior</b> Craniums and Brainiums (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/22/2018, TV-G)		<b>Rise</b> This Will God Willing Get Better (HD, New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
<b>9:30 PM</b>			
<b>10 PM</b>	<b>Timeless</b> The King of the Delta Blues (HD, New, Sci-Fi, 4/22/2018, TV-PG)	<b>Good Girls</b> Summer of the Shark (HD, New, Drama, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	<b>Chicago Med</b> The Parent Trap (HD, New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
<b>10:30 PM</b>			
<b>11 PM</b>	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)
<b>11:30 PM</b>	<b>Sports Extra</b> (Sports)	<b>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</b> (HD, New, Comedy, 4/24/2018, TV-G)

**EXHIBIT I      Programming Lineup for DirecTV**


	Sunday Apr, 22	Monday Apr, 23	Tuesday Apr, 24
12 AM	<b>Saturday Night Live</b> (HD, Repeat, Comedy, 1/13/2018, TV-14)	<b>American Ninja Warrior</b> Orlando Qualifying (Hour 2) (HD, Sports, 6/22/2015, TV-PG)	<b>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
12:30 AM			<b>Late Night with Seth Meyers</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
1 AM	<b>Your Move with Andy Stanley</b> (Information, TV-G)	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	<b>Last Call with Carson Daly</b> (New, Entertainment, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
1:30 AM	<b>Atlanta Tech Edge</b> (Sports, TV-PG)	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	
2 AM	<b>LX.TV: 1st Look</b> Alternative Fitness (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	<b>Meet the Press</b> (HD, Repeat, News, 4/22/2018)	<b>Extra</b> (HD, New, Entertainment, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
2:30 AM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)		<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-14)
3 AM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	<b>Early Today</b> (New, News, TV-G)	<b>11 Alive News Tonight</b> (Repeat, News)
3:30 AM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	<b>Early Today</b> (New, News, TV-G)	
4 AM	<b>Open House NYC</b> Presents George to the Rescue: George to the Rescue (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	<b>Early Today</b> (New, News, TV-G)	<b>Early Today</b> (New, News, TV-G)
4:30 AM	<b>Open House NYC</b> Presents George to the Rescue: George to the Rescue (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	<b>11 Alive's Wake Up with Chesley</b> (New, News)	<b>11 Alive's Wake Up with Chesley</b> (New, News)
5 AM	<b>On the Money</b> (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)
5:30 AM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)
6 AM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)	<b>Morning Rush</b> (New, News)
6:30 AM	<b>In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley</b> Planning Without God (Repeat, Religious, TV-G)	<b>Today</b> (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>Today</b> (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
7 AM			
7:30 AM	<b>Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah</b> (Repeat, Religious, TV-G)		
8 AM	<b>Sunday TODAY with Willie Geist</b> (HD, New, News, 4/22/2018)	<b>Megyn Kelly TODAY</b> (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018)	<b>Megyn Kelly TODAY</b> (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018)
8:30 AM			
9 AM	<b>11 Alive Weekend Mornings</b> (New, News)	<b>Today with Kathie Lee &amp; Hoda</b> (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018)	<b>Today with Kathie Lee &amp; Hoda</b> (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018)
9:30 AM			
10 AM	<b>Meet the Press</b> (HD, New, News, 4/22/2018)	<b>Atlanta &amp; Company</b> (New, Information)	<b>Atlanta &amp; Company</b> (New, Information)
10:30 AM			
11 AM	<b>Atlanta Business Chronicle's Biz</b> (Interview)		
11:30 AM	<b>Atlanta Tech Edge</b> (Sports, TV-PG)	<b>The List</b> (HD, Entertainment)	<b>The List</b> (HD, Entertainment)
12 PM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)		
12:30 PM	<b>On the Money</b> (New, News, 4/20/2018, TV-G)	<b>Days of Our Lives</b> (New, Drama, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	<b>Days of Our Lives</b> (New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
1 PM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)		
1:30 PM	<b>Impractical Jokers</b> HellCopter (New, Comedy, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	<b>Daily Blast Live</b> (HD, Entertainment)	<b>Daily Blast Live</b> (HD, Entertainment)
2 PM	<b>Paid Program</b> (TV-G)		
2:30 PM	<b>Impractical Jokers</b> Stripped of Dignity (New, Comedy, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	<b>Daily Blast Live</b> (HD, Entertainment)	<b>Daily Blast Live</b> (HD, Entertainment)

EXHIBIT I: Programming Lineup for DIRECTV


3 PM	<b>2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs</b> Eastern Conference First Round, Game 6: Pittsburgh Penguins at Philadelphia Flyers from Wells Fargo Center (Sports, 4/22/2018)	<b>Dr. Phil</b> Our Daughter is Starving Herself to Death and It's Killing Our Family (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-	<b>Dr. Phil</b> Our Daughter's Starving Herself to Death; Can Jordan Be Saved? (HD, New, Interview, 4/24/2018, TV-
3:30 PM		<b>The Ellen DeGeneres Show</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Ellen DeGeneres Show</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
4 PM			
4:30 PM			
5 PM		<b>11Alive @ Five</b> (New, News)	<b>11Alive @ Five</b> (New, News)
5:30 PM			
6 PM	<b>11 Alive Weekend News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)	<b>11 Alive News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)	<b>11 Alive News @ 6pm</b> (New, News)
6:30 PM	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/22/2018, TV-G)	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt</b> (HD, New, News, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
7 PM	<b>Dateline NBC</b> Silent No More (HD, New, True, 4/22/2018, TV-PG)	<b>Wheel of Fortune</b> Best Friends (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>Wheel of Fortune</b> Best Friends (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
7:30 PM		<b>Jeopardy!</b> (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>Jeopardy!</b> (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/24/2018, TV-G)
8 PM	<b>Little Big Shots</b> Too Many Chefs (HD, New, True, 4/22/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Voice</b> Live Top 12 Performances (HD, New, True, 4/23/2018, TV-PG)	<b>The Voice</b> Live Top 12 Eliminations (HD, New, True, 4/24/2018, TV-PG)
8:30 PM			
9 PM	<b>Genius Junior</b> Craniums and Brainiums (HD, New, Game/Quiz, 4/22/2018, TV-G)		<b>Rise</b> This Will God Willing Get Better (HD, New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
9:30 PM			
10 PM	<b>Timeless</b> The King of the Delta Blues (HD, New, Sci-Fi, 4/22/2018, TV-PG)	<b>Good Girls</b> Summer of the Shark (HD, New, Drama, 4/23/2018, TV-14)	<b>Chicago Med</b> The Parent Trap (HD, New, Drama, 4/24/2018, TV-14)
10:30 PM			
11 PM	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)	<b>The Late Feed</b> (New, News)
11:30 PM	<b>Sports Extra</b> (Sports)	<b>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</b> (HD, New, Interview, 4/23/2018, TV-G)	<b>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</b> (HD, New, Comedy, 4/24/2018, TV-G)

**EXHIBIT J      Current Broadcaster Coverage of Elections and Themed Coverage**

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Chronicle: The Giving Season Part 4

WYFF 4





**EXHIBIT K Excerpts from bulletin from the Federal Office of Management and Budget**

The following materials are from a September 14, 2018, bulletin from the White House Office of Management and Budget announcing the updated area designations for the various Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Areas, including the recognition of the Toccoa (Stephens County) area being listed under the Atlanta CSA.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 14, 2018

THE DIRECTOR

OMB BULLETIN NO. 18-04

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

**SUBJECT:** Revised Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas, and Guidance on Uses of the Delineations of These Areas

1. **Purpose:** This bulletin establishes revised delineations for the Nation's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas. The bulletin also provides delineations of Metropolitan Divisions as well as delineations of New England City and Town Areas.

The bulletin updates and supersedes OMB Bulletin No. 18-03, issued on April 10, 2018. The delineations of the statistical areas shown in the appendix's nine lists take effect immediately. The delineations reflect the Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published on June 28, 2010, (75 FR 37246) and the application of those standards to Census Bureau population and journey-to-work data. This bulletin also provides guidance on the use of the delineations of these statistical areas.

2. **Background:** Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(3), 31 U.S.C. 1104(d), and Executive Order No. 10253 (June 11, 1951), OMB delineates Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas for use in Federal statistical activities. OMB issues periodic updates of the areas between decennial censuses based on Census Bureau data.
3. **Update of Statistical Areas:** This bulletin provides the delineations of all Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas in the United States and Puerto Rico based on the standards published on June 28, 2010, in the *Federal Register*, and Census Bureau data. The appendix to this bulletin provides the following lists of statistical areas that are recognized under the standards:

List 1 is an alphabetical list by title of 938 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States and Puerto Rico.

List 2 provides titles, codes, delineations, principal cities, and Metropolitan Divisions for 392 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (384 in the United States and 8 in Puerto Rico). There are 11 Metropolitan Statistical Areas that contain a total of 31 Metropolitan Divisions.

List 3 provides titles, codes, and delineations for the 31 Metropolitan Divisions within their respective Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

List 4 presents the titles, codes, delineations, and principal cities for 546 Micropolitan Statistical Areas (542 in the United States and 4 in Puerto Rico).

List 5 identifies 175 Combined Statistical Areas and their 550 component Metropolitan and/or Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

List 6 identifies in each state the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas.

List 7 provides titles, codes, delineations, principal cities, and New England City and Town Area Divisions for 40 New England City and Town Areas.<sup>1</sup>

List 8 provides titles and delineations for 7 Combined New England City and Town Areas and their 30 component New England City and Town Areas.

List 9 identifies in each state the New England City and Town Areas, the New England City and Town Area Divisions, and the Combined New England City and Town Areas.

First introduced in the 2000 standards, Combined Statistical Areas can serve as an important geographic tool for the Federal statistical data community. They can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect broader social and economic interactions, such as wholesaling, commodity distribution, and weekend recreation activities, and are likely to be of considerable interest to regional authorities and the private sector. If specified criteria are met, adjacent Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, in various combinations, may become the components of a Combined Statistical Area. It should be noted that Combined Statistical Areas complement but do not supersede Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, which retain their separate component identities.

The 2000 standards also introduced the construct "Metropolitan Division," which is used to refer to a county or group of counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area that has a population core of at least 2.5 million. While a Metropolitan Division is a subdivision of a larger Metropolitan Statistical Area, it often functions as a distinct social, economic, and cultural area within the larger region. **Metropolitan Divisions can be directly compared with each other, but comparisons of them with entire Metropolitan Statistical Areas would be inappropriate.** Federal agencies will continue to provide detailed data for each Metropolitan Division.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent use of counties in delineating metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas makes it possible to have comparable areas across the Nation for preparing and disseminating Federal statistics. Cities and towns, however, are the primary units of local government in the six New England states, where counties generally have few or no official governmental functions. A wide variety of statistical data, from both Federal and local sources, is compiled for cities and towns in New England. OMB and its predecessor agencies have a longstanding history of delineating statistical areas on a city and town basis in the New England states.

4. **Uses of Statistical Area Delineations:** All agencies that conduct statistical activities to collect and publish data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas should use the most recent delineations of these areas established by OMB.

OMB establishes and maintains the delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Areas solely for statistical purposes. This classification is intended to provide nationally consistent delineations for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for a set of geographic areas. The Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards do not equate to an urban-rural classification; many counties included in Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and many other counties, contain both urban and rural territory and populations.

In periodically reviewing and revising the delineations of these areas, OMB does not take into account or attempt to anticipate any nonstatistical uses that may be made of the delineations, nor does OMB modify the delineations to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical program. Thus, OMB cautions that Metropolitan Statistical Area and Micropolitan Statistical Area delineations should not be used to develop and implement Federal, State, and local nonstatistical programs and policies without full consideration of the effects of using these delineations for such purposes. These areas should not serve as a general-purpose geographic framework for nonstatistical activities, and they may or may not be suitable for use in program funding formulas.

OMB recognizes that some legislation specifies the use of Metropolitan Statistical Areas for program purposes, including the allocation of Federal funds, and will continue to work with the Congress to clarify the foundations and potential impacts of these delineations. In cases where there is no statutory requirement and an agency elects to use the Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Combined Statistical Area delineations in nonstatistical programs, it is the sponsoring agency's responsibility to ensure that the delineations are appropriate for such use. When an agency is publishing for comment a proposed regulation that would use the delineations for a nonstatistical purpose, the agency should seek public comment on the proposed use.

Finally, an agency using the statistical delineations in a nonstatistical program may modify the delineations; however, such potential modification would only apply to the purposes of that program. In such cases, any modifications should be clearly identified as deviations from the OMB statistical area delineations, in order to avoid confusion.

5. **Lists of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, and New England City and Town Area Delineations:** This bulletin and its appendix provide the nine lists of statistical areas that are available electronically from the OMB web site at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins>; this update, historical delineations, and other information about population statistics are available on the Census Bureau's web site at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>.

The 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-06-28/pdf/2010-15605.pdf> and <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-07-07/pdf/2010-16368.pdf>.

6. **Inquiries:** Inquiries concerning the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards and the statistical uses of their delineations should be directed to Robert G. Sivinski [rsivinski@omb.eop.gov](mailto:rsivinski@omb.eop.gov) (202-395-3093). Inquiries about uses of the statistical area delineations in program administration or regulation should be directed to the appropriate agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mick Mulvaney', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mick Mulvaney  
Director

Attachment:

Appendix: Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Combined Statistical Areas, New England City and Town Areas, and Combined New England City and Town Areas

**METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS**

**METROPOLITAN DIVISIONS**

**MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS**

**COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS**

**NEW ENGLAND CITY AND TOWN AREAS**

**COMBINED NEW ENGLAND CITY AND TOWN AREAS**

**Lists 1 through 9**

**Statistical and Science Policy Branch  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget**

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas,  
Combined Statistical Areas, New England City and Town Areas, and  
Combined New England City and Town Areas**

**1. Brief Overview of the Classification**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in a *Federal Register* Notice (75 FR 37246 - 37252) on June 28, 2010. (The standards are available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-06-28/pdf/2010-15605.pdf> and <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-07-07/pdf/2010-16368.pdf>.) That Notice also provides information on the public review process that preceded the adoption of the standards and an explanation of the key terms used in the standards. The 2010 standards replaced and superseded the 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. OMB's 2010 standards provide for the identification of the following statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico:

- Metropolitan Statistical Areas (including Metropolitan Divisions, where applicable)
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas
- Combined Statistical Areas
- New England City and Town Areas (including New England City and Town Area Divisions, where applicable)
- Combined New England City and Town Areas

Metropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. Micropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties. Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are delineated in terms of whole counties (or equivalent entities), including in the six New England States. If specified criteria are met, a Metropolitan Statistical Area containing a single core with a population of 2.5 million or more may be subdivided to form smaller groupings of counties referred to as Metropolitan Divisions.

The classification includes about 94.3 percent of the U.S. population – about 85.8 percent in Metropolitan Statistical Areas and about 8.5 percent in Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Of 3,142 counties in the United States, 1,180 are in the 384 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and 660 counties are in the 542 Micropolitan Statistical Areas (1,302 counties are outside the classification).

In view of the importance of cities and towns in New England, the 2010 standards also provide for a set of geographic areas that are delineated using cities and towns in the six New England states. The New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) are delineated using the same criteria as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and are identified as either metropolitan or micropolitan, based,



respectively, on the presence of either an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population or an urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population. If the specified criteria are met, a New England City and Town Area containing a single core with a population of at least 2.5 million may be subdivided to form smaller groupings of cities and towns referred to as New England City and Town Area Divisions.

If specified criteria are met, adjacent Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, in various combinations, may become the components of a set of complementary areas called Combined Statistical Areas. For instance, a Combined Statistical Area may comprise two or more Metropolitan Statistical Areas, a Metropolitan Statistical Area and a Micropolitan Statistical Area, two or more Micropolitan Statistical Areas, or multiple Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas that have social and economic ties as measured by commuting, but at lower levels than are found among counties within Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The geographic components of Combined New England City and Town Areas are individual metropolitan and micropolitan NECTAs, in various combinations. The areas that combine retain their own designations as Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas (or NECTAs) within the larger Combined Statistical Area (or Combined NECTA). Combined Statistical Areas can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect broader social and economic interactions, such as wholesaling, commodity distribution, and weekend recreation activities, and are likely to be of considerable interest to regional authorities and the private sector.

OMB's standards provide for the identification of one or more principal cities within each Metropolitan Statistical Area, Micropolitan Statistical Area, and NECTA. Principal cities encompass both incorporated places and census designated places (CDPs). In addition to identifying the more significant places in each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area or NECTA in terms of population and employment, principal cities also are used in titling Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Combined Statistical Areas, NECTAs, NECTA Divisions, and Combined NECTAs. A principal city may be only a part of a place if a portion of that place is outside of the Metropolitan Statistical Area, Micropolitan Statistical Area, or NECTA for which the place is principal.

The geographic components of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Metropolitan Divisions are counties and equivalent entities (boroughs and a municipality in Alaska, parishes in Louisiana, municipios in Puerto Rico, and independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia).

This appendix includes the following nine lists that provide information on the statistical areas that are recognized under the 2010 standards using data from 2010 Census, the American Community Survey and Census Bureau population estimates for 2015:

- List 1 is an alphabetical list by title of 938 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- List 2 provides titles, codes, delineations, principal cities, and Metropolitan Divisions for 392 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (384 in the United States and 8 in Puerto Rico).

- List 3 provides titles, codes, and delineations for the 31 Metropolitan Divisions within their respective Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
- List 4 presents the titles, codes, delineations, and principal cities for 546 Micropolitan Statistical Areas (542 in the United States and 4 in Puerto Rico).
- List 5 identifies 175 Combined Statistical Areas and their 550 component Metropolitan and/or Micropolitan Statistical Areas.
- List 6 identifies in each state the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Metropolitan Divisions, Micropolitan Statistical Areas, and Combined Statistical Areas.
- List 7 provides titles, codes, delineations, principal cities, and New England City and Town Area Divisions for 40 New England City and Town Areas.
- List 8 provides titles and delineations for 7 Combined New England City and Town Areas and their 30 component New England City and Town Areas.
- List 9 identifies in each state the New England City and Town Areas, the New England City and Town Area Divisions, and the Combined New England City and Town Areas.

## **List 5**

### **Combined Statistical Areas**

This list provides titles, codes, and delineations in metropolitan statistical areas and/or micropolitan statistical areas for the 175 Combined Statistical Areas with 550 component areas in the United States and Puerto Rico.

- 104 Albany-Schenectady, NY Combined Statistical Area
  - Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Amsterdam, NY Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Glens Falls, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Gloversville, NY Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Hudson, NY Micropolitan Statistical Area
  
- 106 Albuquerque-Santa Fe-Las Vegas, NM Combined Statistical Area
  - Albuquerque, NM Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Española, NM Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Las Vegas, NM Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Los Alamos, NM Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Santa Fe, NM Metropolitan Statistical Area
  
- 107 Altoona-Huntingdon, PA Combined Statistical Area
  - Altoona, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Huntingdon, PA Micropolitan Statistical Area
  
- 108 Amarillo-Pampa-Borger, TX Combined Statistical Area
  - Amarillo, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Borger, TX Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Pampa, TX Micropolitan Statistical Area

- 118 Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah, WI Combined Statistical Area
- Appleton, WI Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Oshkosh-Neenah, WI Metropolitan Statistical Area
- 120 Asheville-Marion-Brevard, NC Combined Statistical Area
- Asheville, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Brevard, NC Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Marion, NC Micropolitan Statistical Area
- 122 Atlanta--Athens-Clarke County--Sandy Springs, GA-AL Combined Statistical Area
- Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Cedartown, GA Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Cornelia, GA Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Gainesville, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Jefferson, GA Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - LaGrange, GA-AL Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Rome, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Thomaston, GA Micropolitan Statistical Area
  - Toccoa, GA Micropolitan Statistical Area
- 140 Bend-Prineville, OR Combined Statistical Area
- Bend, OR Metropolitan Statistical Area
  - Prineville, OR Micropolitan Statistical Area

**EXHIBIT L Letters of Support**

The following letters were provided last year as evidence of support for the efforts of the four Counties – Elbert, Franklin, Hart, and Stephens Counties – that explored broadcast preferences and possibly amending their “orphan” status. The first is a letter jointly signed by three Federal elected officials representing the area – Senators Johnny Isakson and Sonny Perdue, as well as Congressman Doug Collins. The second letter comes from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, an organization that serves as the liaison and advocate for local broadcasters within the State of Georgia. The third letter is on behalf of the Stephens County Commission, in recognition of their citizens’ interests as well as the interests of area businesses and industry.

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 19, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write in strong support of the satellite market modification petitions submitted by Franklin, Hart, Stephens, and Elbert counties (the "counties"), seeking coverage of in-state broadcasting from Atlanta-based stations. These petitions are the culmination of years of work by the counties in support of their residents' need for access to in-state television programming for news, weather, and sports. A recent survey found that over 94% of respondents are interested in receiving in-state television broadcasting, highlighting the importance of this issue among county residents.

Residents of these four northeast Georgia counties who subscribe to satellite television currently receive only local programming from broadcasting stations in the Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina media markets. As a result, residents are deprived of the range of critical information that in-state broadcasters provide to their communities. Since weather patterns in this region generally move from west to east, residents depend on public safety messages that come through in-state broadcasters. Thus, the provision of local broadcasting options represents a matter of public safety as well as an important cultural and economic link between these counties and the rest of Georgia.

This petition comes after years of effort in the legislative and executive branches of our government as well as at the state level. Members of Georgia's congressional delegation worked together with colleagues and stakeholders to develop a viable solution that was ultimately included the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Reauthorization (STELAR) Act of 2014. The Commission's promulgation of final rulemaking in September of 2015 and the issuance of the first market modification orders in early 2017, pursuant to the STELAR Act, gives us hope that the residents of the counties in northeast Georgia will finally have access to the local broadcasting that they so urgently want and need.

We urge the Commission to diligently review the petitions of Franklin, Hart, Stephens, and Elbert counties and work with all affected stakeholders to quickly complete consideration of their satellite market modification petitions. Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,



Doug Collins  
U.S. Congress



Johnny Isakson  
U.S. Senate



David Perdue  
U.S. Senate



## GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

6 West Druid Hills Drive NE, Suite 330 | Atlanta, GA 30329  
Phone (770) 395-7200 | Fax (770) 395-7235 | [www.gab.org](http://www.gab.org)

November 27, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

The Georgia Association of Broadcasters (GAB) is the trade association that represents the interests of Georgia's over-the-air radio and television licensees who reach more than 95% of Georgia's population every week. Our membership is comprised of more than 500 radio and television broadcasters and covers all 159 counties in the state.

As broadcasters in Georgia, we appreciate the efforts of Elbert, Hart, Franklin and Stephens counties (hereafter the "orphan counties") to increase viewer access to local broadcast TV programming in Northeast Georgia. With this letter, we want to confirm our support for increasing localism in a manner that does not undermine the designated market area system.

In discussing carriage of television signals, it is important to remember that the designated market area (DMA) system serves as the foundation that allows local stations to support service to their communities. The FCC report on DMAs, released on June 3, 2016, affirmed the DMA structure and determined that departing from the existing DMA system would create enormous disruptions in the video programming industry. This report also referred to an option for increasing localism that has been previously addressed – voluntary agreements for pay-TV operators to carry in-state stations' local, non-duplicative programming. Broadcasters in the past have offered this option to pay-TV providers in several different markets.

Our goal is to provide those counties with local Georgia programming, while not undermining the framework of our nation's local TV broadcasting system. To the extent that this can be achieved through targeted market modification, we fully support the orphan counties' petition. Additionally, the GAB continues to support efforts to negotiate terms of targeted carriage arrangements to allow delivery of local, in-state, non-duplicative broadcast programming and to increase access to in-state news by Georgia viewers.

We look forward to working with all parties in furtherance of an outcome that brings more local programming to viewers in the orphan counties. In doing so, we also need to respect existing programming contracts and important FCC rules that support locally-oriented TV broadcasting. The specifics of such negotiated carriage arrangements will need to be worked through with individual broadcast stations.

Again, we thank you for your continued desire to work with us to facilitate a successful outcome.

Sincerely,

Bob Houghton  
President  
Georgia Association of Broadcasters



[facebook.com/GABroadcasters](https://facebook.com/GABroadcasters)



[twitter.com/gabroadcasters](https://twitter.com/gabroadcasters)



[linkedin.com/company/georgia-association-of-broadcasters](https://linkedin.com/company/georgia-association-of-broadcasters)





## Stephens County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 386  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577  
(706) 886-9491  
Fax (706) 886-2185

Michelle Ivester, Chairman  
Dean Scarborough, Vice-Chairman  
Dennis Bell, Commissioner  
Debbie Whitlock, Commissioner  
Stanley London, Commissioner

Phyllis Ayers, County Administrator  
Beth Rider, County Clerk  
Brian Ranck, County Attorney

November 27, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

Stephens County is nestled in Northeast Georgia at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains a region known for its ruggedness and scenic beauty. Stephens County has many local natural attractions as the Tugaloo River and two of its reservoirs, the 900 foot-high Currahee Mountain and 186 foot-high Toccoa Falls. We are proud of our Georgia roots and diversified landscapes. Over time the county has served as an agricultural community, a railroad hub and textile production center, home of the Camp Toccoa military training ground for paratroopers in World War II, and currently is home to a variety of industries and two college campuses as part of our growing region. Lake Hartwell, an Army Corp of Engineers lake separates Stephens County and South Carolina and is considered one of the Southeast's largest and most popular recreation lakes.

Stephens County had an estimated population of 25,751 people in 2016 and includes three municipalities; the county seat of Toccoa (8,412 persons), the Town of Avalon (207), and City of Martin (358). Stephens County is only 90 minutes north of Atlanta and 45 minutes from Athens, Georgia and Gainesville, Georgia. Primary access includes Interstate Hwy. 85 and the recently expanded State Hwy.17. The county is also served by the 5,000-foot R.G. LeTourneau Airport and is one of three Amtrak stops in Georgia on the Crescent Line that runs from New York to New Orleans.

Stephens County is not considered a part of any Georgia demographic market area; instead we are considered an "Orphan County". Despite and overwhelming desire to be included in Georgia's broadcasting territory, our citizens must rely on South Carolina and North Carolina broadcasters to deliver the day's news, weather, and



sports information; in addition we are deprived of important in-state political material. In a recent survey 94.5% of the respondents expressed an interest in receiving in-state satellite broadcast service and 97.3% stated they seek services such as healthcare and entertainment in Georgia. Our healthcare systems need to comply with federally mandated information as well as our Public Safety Officials. We believe that our rural county deserves the same benefits of State connectivity as metro areas. Citizens have made numerous visits to our office, letters, emails, and calls on the subject pour into our office and this subject is a frequent topic with our constituents.

The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization (STELAR ACT) of 2014 opened the doors for local governments to petition on behalf of our citizens for market modification. As the local governing body, we seek to be an advocate for those we serve. We are appreciative of the opportunity and pleased that the Commission set forth this process. We have reached out to our Representatives, the satellite companies, and the broadcasters to facilitate a successful outcome. We now present our case to the Federal Communication Commission and implore you consider our petition. It is for these reasons we are committed to support this petition and request your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Michelle Ivester, Chairman  
Stephens County Board of Commissioners

/br

**EXHIBIT M      Comments from County residents**

The following represents a sample of comments were received by Stephens County during October 2018 as part of an open public participation process as the County was considering the best course of action regarding “orphan” status. Notice of this open comment period was advertised via the local newspaper and County web site, and was announced during the September 25, 2018, County Commission meeting. These comments were either delivered to the County Courthouse directly or sent via mail or email.

In all a total of 214 unique responses were submitted, with 193 (90.2%) expressing support for a switch in market designation and one comment considered neutral. A fuller sample of actual submitted comments is provided with this document.

**Highlighted Comments – For Switching Markets**

- Unfair for GA citizens to not be able to get Atlanta stations.
- Need info on weather and politics in our home state.
- Tru-Vista is taking advantage of Toccoa/Stephens residents by charging them way too much for cable.
- GA citizens need to see political ads that pertain to GA
- Without GA news we are sometimes unaware of new state laws.
- Since I travel to Atlanta frequently, I need to know about traffic situations and weather as it moves north.
- We like the Atlanta channels better.
- I am unable to stay adequately informed regarding politics and this seems to be a denial of constitutional rights.
- Our political interests are in GA, not SC.
- GA residents should have the option to receive TV programming from within their home state.
- We need weather alerts BEFORE the storms hit SC.
- Since I get SC channels I am unaware when something happens in our state.
- Need a reliable way of staying informed as to what my GA reps and governor are doing, and I wish to receive advertisements in my state so my tax dollars stay in my state.

**Highlighted Comments – Against Switching Markets**

- SC offers better PBS stations/programming.
- SC news is more accurate for the Toccoa area.
- SC offers better programming in general.
- SC offers a more balanced political view and coverage.
- Atlanta stations have no interest in Toccoa events.
- All our shopping is done in SC, and I like to see ads/commercials for SC.
- Atlanta stations seem to only cover Fulton, DeKalb, Cwinnett, and Cobb counties.
- Demographically, Toccoa has more in common with SC.
- No need to see Atlanta burglaries, assaults, and traffic.
- Greenville channels provide local coverage of Toccoa/Stephens, whereas Atlanta does not know we exist.
- Out of pocket costs will increase if we go with Atlanta stations.

Nancy Steele Huber  
957 Easy Street  
Toccoa, GA 30577

(706) 886-2374

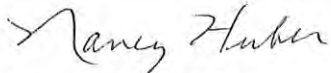
[nancyhuber@windstream.net](mailto:nancyhuber@windstream.net)

To the Federal Communications Commission:

I am a Georgia native who strongly supports the petition to change the "local" television stations received through satellite services to our home state of Georgia where we live, pay taxes, and most importantly vote. We live under the laws passed by the Georgia General Assembly with practically no information provided by these "local" stations on our Georgia State Representatives, Georgia Senators, and the issues being discussed in our own State Capitol.

The "orphan counties" were created years ago by unelected bureaucrats based on commercial interests. Congress, representing the people of the United States, has now provided a remedy for this discriminatory and disenfranchising situation. The "local" stations that satellite customers receive currently are opposed to this petition because it will eliminate a captive audience. (Incidentally, our weather patterns are usually from the west and it is difficult to see the weather maps when the South Carolina/North Carolina meteorologists are standing in front of our counties blocking our portion of these maps so that all of South and North Carolina can be seen clearly. In the last election cycle satellite TV customers knew all about the issues and candidates in South and North Carolina and could not vote on any of them yet were in the dark about Georgia issues and candidates which would affect them every day as residents and citizens of Georgia.)

Ideally, the customer paying for television service should be able to choose any stations desired. I urge the FCC to act quickly to do as it did for Franklin County, Georgia and approve the petition of my home county, Stephens, as well as the remaining orphan counties.



Nancy Steele Huber  
September 25, 2018

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/25/18  
NAME: David Fauceff  
ADDRESS: 64 Lighthouse Pt. Martin 30557  
PHONE: 678-896-5997

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

I support getting the Atlanta market  
stations because the state news (political, etc.)  
is more important and pertinent to me.  
The Atlanta weather is more applicable  
as well as the usual patterns flow from  
the west. Thank you.



## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 10/04/2018  
NAME: Randall Davis  
ADDRESS: 1020 N. Hicks Rd., Toccoa, Ga, 30577  
PHONE: 706-886-8825

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

### COMMENT:

- 1.) From The Greenville Stations The weather forecast focus is on Greenville, Spartanburg & Asheville. The weather person typically will stand in front of The Toccoa location ~~to~~ Toccoa weather ~~typically~~ arrives before it gets to Greenville -.
- 2.) There is NO Georgia Political/Voting information from The SC or NC Stations
- 3.) IT would be nice to have access to Atlanta highway Traffic information, for DWL Trips to Atlanta

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: Oct 07, 2018

NAME: Marilyn Harris

ADDRESS: 17 Summer Hill / Toccoa, Ga 30577

PHONE: 706-886-6629

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

I received the Atlanta channels until 2  
years ago when I moved. Would very much like  
to hear the political views, weather reports and  
news in general of Ga instead of S.C.

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 10/7/18

NAME: Delaney Farmer

ADDRESS: 37 Summerhill Dr - Decatur, GA 30077

PHONE: 706-297-7971

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

\* Weather reports out of S.C. usually don't affect us in GA  
We should be able to hear <sup>political news</sup> ~~politics~~ on GA not SC.  
Local & national news from Atlanta stations.  
\* Weather reports out of Atlanta.

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 09-25-2018

NAME: Sue Morgan

ADDRESS: 323 Clearview Dr, Toccoa, GA 30577

PHONE: 706-886-6368

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support - of Atlanta Station Market

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

Not interested in South Carolina news and  
politics.

Need to know what's going on in Georgia  
news and politics and voting results.

Sue Morgan



## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9-25-18

NAME: Melissa Holcomb Melissa Holcomb

ADDRESS: 2997 Rock Creek Rd Toccoa

PHONE: 706-244-2292

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support of Atlanta stations

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

Georgia residents need Georgia news to be  
able to make informed decisions for voting.

We need to see the political ads that pertain  
to our races. We need traffic & weather for  
our area. Without Georgia stations I am  
sometimes unaware of new state laws.

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9-25-18

NAME: REBECCA M. SHAVER

ADDRESS: 348 CROSS CREEK LANE, TOCCOA 30577

PHONE: 678-386-1511

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

### COMMENT:

- 1) WOULD LIKE TO HEAR INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
POLITICAL CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN THE  
STATE OF GEORGIA.
- 2) SINCE WE TRAVEL TO ATLANTA FREQUENTLY, IT IS  
GOOD TO KNOW ABOUT TRAFFIC SITUATIONS AND  
THE WEATHER THERE AND AS IT MOVES NORTH TO  
U.S.
- 3) (MOVED HERE FROM ATLANTA 10 YEARS AGO)

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 8/25/18  
NAME: Robert Fauceett  
ADDRESS: 64 Lighthouse Point Martin, Ga.  
PHONE: 404-374-0979

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

I need to know what is happening  
politically in my State. Also,  
I need to know the weather forecast  
for my area. South Carolina rarely  
reports about the Stephens County  
Ga. weather/warnings.



Y  
October 4, 2018

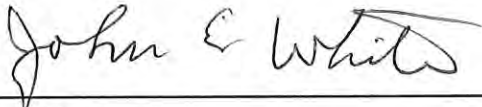
Ms. Beth Rider  
County Clerk, Stephens County, GA

Re: Change channels on satellite dish companies from Carolina to Atlanta networks

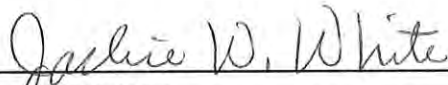
We are in favor of changing the network channels to Atlanta because:

1. Since we live in Georgia we want to know what is going on in our state. Especially during the elections. We need to know who all is running for public office for Governor, state representatives, etc.
2. We have friends and relatives living in the Atlanta area and often we need to travel Atlanta for events including birthdays, holidays, and funeral. Therefore, the Atlanta news concerning traffic conditions are helpful in planning our route.
3. Some of the medical facilities we use are in the Atlanta viewing area.
4. We often shop and eat at restaurants in the Atlanta viewing area.

Therefore, we petition the FCC to change the channels from Carolina to Atlanta.



John E. White



Jackie W. White

186 Cherokee Hills Lane  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706-297-7084

Y

To whom it may concern,

We are residents of Stephens County in Georgia. The FCC, because of our location between Atlanta and Greenville, SC, requires us to get South Carolina stations as the 'local station' option on our satellite TV programming package.

We literally have no interest in whatever is happening in Greenville or the surrounding area in South Carolina. **Our political interests are in Georgia, not in SC.** The majority of our shopping is done in Georgia, not in SC. Our weather is more closely related to Atlanta than to Greenville. We pay taxes in Georgia, not in SC. We have family members who live and work in Atlanta, so it would be very useful to be able to get Atlanta traffic reports.

We are Georgia residents, not South Carolina residents. We have been 'orphans' in the satellite TV coverage world for many years. I think it is about time we get the option to get Georgia programming via Atlanta instead of South Carolina programming via Greenville.

Hopefully,



James E Turner  
87 Currahee Plantation  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706 244-2206  
jim@katjim.com

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/24/18

NAME: Ernest Shirley

ADDRESS: 193 Currahee Cir Toccoa, GA 30579

PHONE: 706-297-7123

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

We highly support all efforts to obtain the Atlanta  
TV broadcast. We currently don't have access to any Ga.  
news, weather, sports etc. We have no tie to SC, we pay  
taxes in Ga.

Ernest Shirley

Sept. 24, 2018

To: FCC/Stephens County

As a longtime resident of Georgia, we'd like to voice our opinion in favor of allowing Stephens County to receive the Atlanta stations broadcast.

Living in Stephens County, we'd like to have Ga. Broadcast since we have no ties to South Carolina. We deserve to have Ga. Broadcast, and there's a major difference in large market coverage vs medium markets that we now receive from SC.

Currently we don't receive any north Ga. Coverage for weather, sports, or current news.

Sincerely

Handwritten signatures of Ernest Shirley and Carolyn Shirley in cursive script.

Ernest & Carolyn Shirley

193 Currahee Circle

Toccoa, Ga. 30577

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9 - 25 - 2018

NAME: MICHAEL JAMESON / Michael Jameson

ADDRESS: 81 McMURRAY CIR. TOCCOA, GA 30577

PHONE: 706-886-9554

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

### COMMENT:

All residents of the state of Georgia should have the option of receiving television programming from within their home state. Being placed in a South Carolina television market prevents residents of Stephens County from receiving news related to events, politics, sports, and weather relevant to the state of Georgia. Stephens County gets the worst of both markets when severe weather events happen. Atlanta market stations end severe storm coverage when storms move into our county and the South Carolina stations fail to pick up coverage until the storms are more relevant to South Carolina residents. After the fact, Stephens County residents are left to look on-line for relevant surrounding college and governmental closings as the are unpublished by the South Carolina television market. In election years such as this one, Stephens County residents are relegated to watching political ads and news coverage of candidates who will not be elected to represent our citizens. A citizen's right to receive information out of their own state should supersede battles over viewing territory for advertising dollars. The original FCC regulations which placed four Georgia counties into the Greenville, South Carolina viewing market are dated and should be removed.



## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/24/18

NAME: Tracy Wilkes

ADDRESS: 1161 Shady Ln. Toccoa GA

PHONE: 706-491-6997

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support - Atlanta

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

\* We need to get local election coverage.

\* We need weather alerts BEFORE the storms reach South Carolina!

Tracy Wilkes

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: Sept. 25, 2018

NAME: Teresa Spencer

ADDRESS: 1173 Livendale Rd. Toccoa, GA. 30577

PHONE: 706-764-7218

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support - of Atlanta

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

I live in Georgia, vote in Georgia  
yet only get South Carolina news so I  
have to look up results of local + state  
elections. If something is happening statewide  
I'm not aware because my news is from  
Greenville, SC! I live in GA. + would like  
access to my states information.

Teresa Spencer

Stephens County Clerk, Beth Rider

RE: Atlanta TV market


I desperately want the Atlanta TV stations. We have 3 children, 7 adult grandchildren & 16 greatgrandchildren who all live south of here. Several other relatives as well. I am not interested in news from SC. I want news that impacts my family.

I also am not interested in SC political news but want to know what is going on in my state in the political arena.

As far as weather, by the time SC addresses it, it has already past us.

I am a proud Georgian and want Georgia news. There are probably more reasons I could list but these are a few of the reasons that I urge Stephens County to do all that they can to assure that we get Georgia news.

Thank you.

  
Dorothy Mooney  
348 Buena Vista Drive  
Eastanollee, GA

706 297 7061 or 404 281 9874



To: Stephens County Board of Commissioners

Date: October 7, 2018

Re: Access to the Atlanta Television Market

Upon reading the recent articles in *The Toccoa Record*, regarding access to the Atlanta television market, we want you to know that, as new Stephens County residents, we feel very strongly that it is critically important to be informed of Georgia issues, including weather, political issues and regional events.

In Stephens County, there is little difference in the distance between the cities in upstate South Carolina with television stations and Atlanta. Most of our weather comes from the west, Georgia politics directly affects us, and events in all of north Georgia are as easily accessible and those in Greenville, Spartanburg, or Columbia, SC.

We recognize that there may be FCC regulatory issues with making the change we have requested. Please work with our state and federal Representatives and Senators to effect the change we are requesting.

We also recognize that there may be cost differences connected to making this kind of change. Please make the Stephens County citizens aware of any such costs and seek additional public input on this and any other topics that may arise.

We have chosen to be Georgians, not South Carolinians. If we had wanted to be South Carolinians, we would have moved to the other side of Hartwell Lake. To be denied Georgia news is disrespectful of our needs.

Respectfully,



Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Collier

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 10-1-18

NAME: Stanley Crisp

ADDRESS: 553 Defoor Rd Toccoa Ga

PHONE: 706-599-0543

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

The Weather reporting is not very  
good coming from the Carolinas and  
the reporting of the governor race  
and other political offices for Georgia  
is non-existent

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9-28-18

NAME: Betty Troup

ADDRESS: 164 Pine Valley Dr Toccoa, Ga. 30577

PHONE: 706 886-6064

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

### COMMENT:

daughter and family live in Atlanta, Ga  
Grandson and family live in Cumming, Ga  
Granddaughter U.G.A. Athens - Grandson work U G A  
We like to visit - Shop in Athens, Gainesville, Atlanta  
My husband keeps up with politics - law  
I love to watch Ga News, weather  
want to help Ga. grow & prosper  
encourage grandchildren to live in Ga.

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/26/2018

NAME: Robert A. Troup

ADDRESS: 164 Pine Valley Drive

PHONE: 706-491-3089

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

LIVING IN GEORGIA WE NEED TO KNOW  
GEORGIA NEWS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT  
NEW LAWS - WHO WILL MAKE A GOOD GOVERNOR,  
WHAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE DOING  
PLUS GEORGIA SALES TAX KEEPS OUR  
ROADS UP TO DATE AND OUR LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PAID TO MAKE  
US SAFE.

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9-27-18  
NAME: Vicki Herron  
ADDRESS: 374 Preacher Savage Rd - Locust, GA  
PHONE: 706-491-4424

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

I want to see Atlanta news rather than  
SC news.

I also want to see political ads for  
those seeking office in Georgia.

And, I want to watch FOX 5 Weather  
because Chief Meteorologist David Chondley  
is my cousin!



## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/27/18

NAME: Doyle Johnson

ADDRESS: 297 Woodlawn Dr. Toccoa, Ga.

PHONE: 706-391-3143

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

### COMMENT:

Since I live in Ga. it would only make common sense  
to receive Ga. news, even tho the Atlanta stations carry  
Atlanta news. They also broadcast news from around Ga.  
otherwise currently I am only getting South Ga.  
news. Doesn't do me any good. It really isn't fair to  
us Georgians in these orphan counties. Please  
help us.

Just think about it for a moment.....

Why would a person living in one state want TV coverage from another state?

Why would that person care about weather in another state or care about seeing sales ads from another state? And again why see political ads or Public broadcast from another state. Why wouldn't that person want local news coverage or want to see his own state's sports teams play?

I can't see why anyone would voluntarily choose this arrangement. But if he did, and he lived on a state line, why wouldn't some of both broadcasts be offered from both states, especially the ones that would be significantly viewed if offered. The Nielsen Designated Market Area maps are redrawn every three years and surely the technology is available to change boundaries to meet the populous concerns. Further, I am sure there are means to waive rules in order to provide the best coverage for local viewers.

I can see South Carolina wanting to keep the status quo because they feel their ads influence Georgians to buy in S.C. but that is not so. The only draw is cheaper gas but the roads to get there are terrible.

There might be a few people who want the other state's broadcast, but I for one don't want that.

Ron Wade

81 Elm Dr.

Toccoa, Ga

9/27/2018

Y

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support for the change to the Atlanta market for my television viewing. As a citizen of an "orphan county," my needs are not being met.

I need a reliable way of staying informed as to what my Georgia representatives and governor are doing, at the State Capitol.

I should have access to my own state's public television station.

I wish to receive advertising for businesses in my state, so that my tax dollars STAY in my state.

And, most importantly, I need accurate, extended weather forecasts. Most storm systems move from west to east, in this area. It is very important to know what is coming from Alabama and the west Georgia area towards us, in order to have plenty of time to prepare.

The stations out of South and North Carolina can not provide these necessities.

Our neighboring county, Habersham, has even been considered an extension of the Atlanta-metro area.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to news that I will soon fully be considered a part of my state, Georgia.

Tucker household - Jane and Julie

449 Acre Estates, Toccoa, GA 30577

706-886-6392

janellen@hotmail.com

*Jane Tucker*  
*Julie Tucker*

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: Sept. 27, 2018

NAME: Dale + Donna Meeks

ADDRESS: 881 Beaver Dam Rd. Toccoa

PHONE: 706-599-7408

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.



In Support



In Opposition

COMMENT:

One of the biggest reasons that we cancelled  
our subscription to satellite is that we  
found little value in receiving South Carolina  
news and marketing.

South Carolina definitely benefits from commanding  
the airwaves into Georgia. We would most likely  
re-subscribe + install T.V. if we could see + hear  
what is actually happening in our own state i.e.  
news, elections + advertisements.

Darlene H. Johnson

117 S. Abbey Lane Court

Toccoa, GA 30577

706-886-7850

We currently have Direct TV as our television provider and receive only stations in South Carolina and North Carolina. Consequently, we DO NOT receive news coverage for events in Georgia, which is totally unacceptable.

The SC stations occasionally mention major GA events but no coverage of the GA governor's race and certainly no local news. They do mention weather in GA but generally stand in front of the maps for our area, so local weather coverage is also minimal.

Apparently NC is unaware that GA exists, as we rarely are even mentioned on the Asheville station.

We need news coverage (political races, tax increases, weather, etc.) for the state that affects our lives, not information about SC!

Also, there is NO technological reason that prevents us from having both our current suppliers and GA stations. The FCC needs to move its thinking out of the 1950s and allow free access to programming from any market.

I say a resounding "YES" to receiving Atlanta Stations!

Darlene Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darlene Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



Ted Johnson

P.O. Box 735

Toccoa, GA 30577

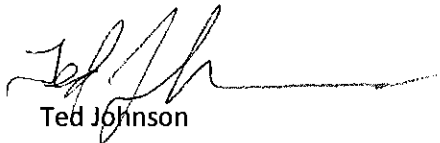
706-201-1222

YES to Atlanta Stations!!

South Carolina & North Carolina stations DO NOT provide coverage of State of Georgia elections, tax increases (decreases? Yeah right!) or weather. We need news from the state ***that has a direct impact on our lives***, not from the Carolinas where we don't live. I know much more about SC Governor Henry McMaster than I do about Ga. Gov. Nathan Deal or candidates Kemp and Abrams, but I can't vote in South Carolina!

We should have freedom to choose which market we want to be in and the right to change markets as we please. There is NO REASON why NE Georgia should be locked into a television market that was established in the 1950s just because we could only receive over the air broadcasts from the Carolinas back then.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ted Johnson

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: Oct. 3, 2018

NAME: Chip White

ADDRESS: 1337 Ridgeland Rd Eastanollee, Ga. 30538

PHONE: 706-779-3046

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

We need news for the state we live in  
for elections, weather, etc. South Carolina does  
not help us at all when it comes to Georgia  
information. Franklin Co. Has passed. It's time for  
Stephens Co. to have the same options

7

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: Oct. 2, 2018  
NAME: RICHARD M. STALEY  
ADDRESS: 220 HARDY FARMS POINT, MARTINGA  
PHONE: 770-241-8544

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

Keeping informed with issues and events within the Greater Metropolitan Area, such as news, weather and the seasonal political goings on is important even if we are separated by a Couple of Counties. We do occasionally have to travel to the Metro Area and a heads up on traffic would be Great!!  
Mike Staley



September 25, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in favor of having access to the Atlanta Stations for Georgia news. My position as Community Resource Coordinator requires me to "be in the know" of what is happening within the State and Communities of Georgia. The South Carolina stations do not inform the Georgia population of news that impacts our area.

We serve nineteen counties including Elberton, Hart and Franklin and I would be glad to start a petition to collect signatures for switching over to the Atlanta Stations if need be.

Sincerely,



Paula Duley  
Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.  
161 Queen Street  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706-886-0211  
[paula.duley@ndocsbg.org](mailto:paula.duley@ndocsbg.org)

Y

The STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR) added satellite television carriage to the Commission's market modification authority, which previously applied only to cable television carriage. STELAR permits the Commission to **add communities to**, or delete communities from, a station's local television market for purposes of satellite carriage, following a written request.

Stephens, Habersham, Banks and Hart Counties are "orphan" counties with insufficient access to in-state programming, and are precisely the type of communities that Congress intended to assist by broadening the market modification process.

The residents of the above mentioned Counties are currently underserved by the broadcast stations in the South Carolina DMA, due to those stations' focus on news and programming information of interest to South Carolina. Thus these counties lack access to local television programming that is relevant to their everyday lives.

Providing the Commission with a means to address this problem by altering the structure of, and therefore the stations located within, a local market was a primary factor in Congress' decision to extend market modification authority to the satellite context.

So, with the backing of Congress' STELAR order I would like to see Stephens County removed from South Carolina designated market area and added to the Atlanta DMA. I think Stephens County residents will benefit from this special relief to gain access to Georgia satellite carriage.

Ron Wade  
81 Elm Dr.  
Toccoa, Ga.  
706-201-2638

Y

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/24/18  
NAME: Cavonna Holcomb  
ADDRESS: 1331 Oak Valley Rd Toccoa 30572  
PHONE: 706-491-1743

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

This is greatly needed to keep residents  
abreast of breaking news happening on the  
state of Georgia level!!!

Mary Bunch  
72 Summer Tanager Pvt Drive  
P.O. Box 936  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
September 24, 2018

Dear Stephens County Commissioners and FCC,

I plan to hand-deliver this letter to the Stephens County courthouse so I did not bother to look up and include your mailing address. I am writing to express my opinion of the lack of Georgia news channels in our satellite provider's (Dish) package.

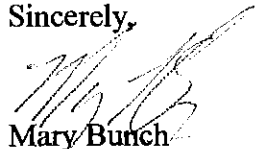
Because we live in Stephens County, Georgia, we have not been given the option of getting any local or Georgia-based news because we are deemed an "orphan county." I don't like that one bit. We currently get a couple SC stations and at least one NC station. Unfortunately those stations do a very poor job of covering *any* northeast Georgia news or events. I am of a generation that gleans most of my news (weather, news, political and recreational events) information from television news, radio, and a local newspaper so I end up being almost wholly ignorant of northeast Georgia events and important state legislative actions or Atlanta happenings.

When I watch the weather on TV the meteorologist frequently blocks the view of the Toccoa area (we live west of Toccoa so we often only catch a fleeting glimpse of the weather map). The news we watch seems to be all about Greenville and Spartanburg, SC or Asheville, NC. For example, a few years ago over a million dollars disappeared from the Stephens County School's budget. I never saw it covered on the SC-NC-based news. We *still* haven't been given an adequate explanation of that loss which cost us an increase on our taxes! We also have had homicides and robberies in the Toccoa area never mentioned on our tv news. That's pretty serious, don't you think? I also find it difficult to inform myself prior to elections because the only position-type information I see is from left-leaning local newspaper. I also miss seeing any coverage of local events in which I might like to participate (festivals, plays, art shows, etc).

One channel I enjoy watching is NC public television. They have several shows that feature great places to visit in NC. I would love to see a show about great places to visit in Georgia and I can only assume that Georgia public television has something along that line (I don't know if they do because I have never had the opportunity to watch GA public TV). I would love to find some places to visit in Georgia!

In summary, being an orphan of any sort is not a good thing. Please allow us to receive some Georgia channels. I'd also like to keep at least one NC and SC channel because I care about our region. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Bunch

(706) 282 0615

9/24/18

Y

Daniel Hubbard  
1198 Lovers Lane  
Toccoa, Ga. 30577  
706-282-7694  
706-491-8026

In Support

Why? I spend more time in Ga than South Carolina. I travel to Atlanta more than Greenville. My insurance is in Ga not South Carolina. My voting is in Ga not South Carolina. My taxes are filed in Ga not South Carolina. I shop in Ga more than South Carolina. What is happening in Ga affects me more than what is happening in South Carolina. I need to be able to know what is happening in the State that I Live.

*Daniel L. Hubbard*

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9-24-18

NAME: Sharon Pitts Sharon Pitts

ADDRESS: 1377 S. Yow Mill Rd; Toccoa, GA

PHONE: 706 779 5732

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

The Atlanta Channels are more informative  
Since we live in Georgia! We are able  
to keep up with the political races if we  
can "pick up" the Atlanta stations

Lawrence and Juanita Krul

October 8, 2018

383 Stancil Dr.

Toccoa, GA 30577

706-282-1358

To whom it may concern,

We have had satellite television for the last 11 plus years and have not been given the option of having access to Georgia television stations or markets. We are hopeful this is about to change.

We are interested in the things of Georgia not South and North Carolina. This is a very important election cycle from the Governor's race to regional elections. We do not get the Georgia candidate's information or perspective from the South and North Carolina stations. When we see the weather map, the reporter is almost always standing in front of Toccoa on their map. We wish to spend our taxed dollars where it benefits Georgians. We even pay Georgia state and county taxes on our satellite bill. This makes us wonder why we do not have access to Georgia television.

Then we have the sports issue. We want to root for our home teams not South and North Carolina teams, both professional and collegiate games.

**WE ARE IN FAVOR OF HAVING GEORGIA TELEVISION STATIONS**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Larry and Juanita Krul

October 3, 2018

Stephens County

Administrator Phyllis Ayers

Toccoa, GA 30577

RE: FCC request for satellite channel change to Atlanta TV stations

Dear Administrator Ayers:

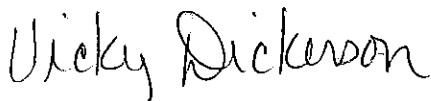
I would like to receive Atlanta stations via my satellite TV provider instead of Carolina stations. There are several reasons related to specific information for our state. Reason one: more timely and accurate weather information not just for this area but that affects other areas of Georgia. Reason two: more sports coverage of high school, college, and professional teams in Georgia. Reason three: More coverage of bills and laws that affect Georgia. We do not receive information on the progress of bills that will directly affect Georgia and only minor coverage when bills pass. For example, the recent law regarding hand held devices in a moving vehicle. Reason four: Politics and elections. The stations currently received in this area carry almost no information on Georgia state and federal candidates, elections, and results. More information is desperately needed to make an informed vote. Getting Georgia voting results is difficult.

My personal information follows:

Vicky Dickerson  
170 Bobcat Trail  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
727-418-2095

Thank you for consideration of this request to change satellite coverage in this area to Atlanta stations.

Sincerely,



Vicky Dickerson



**KINLOCH F. DUNLAP**

475 HILLENDALE  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
(706) 886-7401

September 29, 2018

**Subject: Comments on TV Issue**

**To: Ms. Phyllis Ayers**

**From: Kinloch F. Dunlap**

My comments on this issue may have too much included, but I have been thinking about the issue for some time.

When I arrived in Toccoa, our 'then' cable provider was able to provided service from both Atlanta and South Carolina TV stations. Things however got really bad when Atlanta's WSB TV stationed decided our cable provider should be charged fees to broadcast their TV programs in Toccoa. I called a WSB senior attorney to ask why they would not let us see their programming. Her answer was: "Toccoa residents were out of luck".

Things got even worse when the University of Georgia took our local TV station to Athens. We were then unable to get local news or local weather forecasts.

And things got even worse on Weather Forecasts. While WSB knows what Toccoa's weather forecasts are, but they will not provide the information to us. South Carolina stations do have access to the forecasts, but by the time thy get it broadcasted, the weather conditions had already changed.

Our U.S. Rep Doug Collins began efforts to address the subjects of having all counties in Georgia to have access to the broadcasts of the Georgia's TV Stations. I was pleased with his efforts and was able to keep up with his progress. At one time, he was suggesting that he was about to succeed. But then, he stopped his information flow.

The reality of our problem rests in the pockets of Washington DC swamp employees. They just do not want to waste their time and efforts to help Georgia.

If you have not talked to Doug Collins to see what happened, I recommend that you call him to find out his problems. If it is truly the "I don't care attitude of the swamp employee's", then we will have a real problem. Another though is to contact the President. He has complained about the swamp employees before and he may be willing to help us.

Ms. Phyllis Ayers, I hope this information will be helpful in the efforts of you and other "Eastern Georgia Counties" to be able to rejoin to the State of Georgia.

Sincerely;



**Kinloch F. Dunlap**

From: Gayle Busha  
174 Cawthon Rd  
Toccoa, Ga. 30577  
Cell- 706-244-4139

I strongly Favor Changing to the Atlanta television market!  
Because it's Not Fair that I can't see what's happening  
in my own State. Especially Political issues. I vote  
in Georgia NOT South Carolina. Cornelia, Ga. has the  
Atlanta market. Not Fair that we are singled out.  
I don't want to see South Carolina news or who is  
running for office there. They don't even give the  
Weather Forecast for this area. I don't Shop there. I Shop  
in my own state. I vote in Ga.

I Strongly Support that you do whatever you can to  
get the Atlanta market here in Stephens County.

Thank you,  
Gayle Busha  
and  
Kent Busha

Times have changed a great deal since the late 50s, except for television viewing in N E Georgia. TV viewing is about the only thing that hasn't changed. Back then you picked up the phone, you told the operator the number you wanted to contact; later you could actual dial the number you wanted... in both cases when you turned the tv on, you most likely received over the air stations from South Carolina and sometimes North Carolina, depending on the weather and your location...at the time this was the only option. Today I can call any country in WORLD from my CAR.... But when I turn on my TV at home I'm required to view S.C. and N.C. stations even though I live in Georgia, I work in Georgia, My kids go to school in Georgia, I vote in Georgia, I pay taxes in Georgia, my weather comes across the state of Georgia as we are one of the most eastern counties in the state. Just like phone service, television service IS available to us via satellite to connect us to our home state, to include elections, weather, and news that actually affects us, unlike the Carolina news. We would greatly appreciate the FCC bringing Stephens County into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and allowing us to view our state TV news and weather.

Don Kesler

20 Richardson St.

Toccoa, Ga. 706-491-3671

Don Kesler - 9-24-28

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: 9/24/2018

NAME: Larry Dunge

ADDRESS: 1556 Harbor Valley Rd Toccoa Ga 30577

PHONE: 706-779-3326

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.

Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

COMMENT:

We should be able to view the stations  
from the Atlanta market for three reasons  
1) To see where our tax money is going and  
how it's being spent. 2) To be able to watch  
our Georgia sports teams, especially during football  
season 3) To see what weather is coming our way.  
Since weather patterns usually go from west to east.

+

October 3, 2018

Stephens County

Administrator Phyllis Ayers

Toccoa, GA 30577

RE: FCC request for satellite channel change to Atlanta TV stations

Dear Administrator Ayers:

I would like to receive Atlanta stations via my satellite TV provider instead of Carolina stations. There are several reasons related to specific information for our state. Reason one: more timely and accurate weather information not just for this area but that affects other areas of Georgia. Reason two: more sports coverage of high school, college, and professional teams in Georgia. Reason three: More coverage of bills and laws that affect Georgia. We do not receive information on the progress of bills that will directly affect Georgia and only minor coverage when bills pass. For example, the recent law regarding hand held devices in a moving vehicle. Reason four: Politics and elections. The stations currently received in this area carry almost no information on Georgia state and federal candidates, elections, and results. More information is desperately needed to make an informed vote. Getting Georgia voting results is difficult.

My personal information follows:      James Dickerson  
170 Bobcat Trail  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
727-418-1847

Thank you for consideration of this request to change satellite coverage in this area to Atlanta stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dickerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Dickerson

V

Suzanne Fletcher

883 Beaver Dam Road

Toccoa, GA 30577

706-244-0481

September 26, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have been a resident of Toccoa and DirecTV customer for 19 years and have always wondered why I don't have access to local Atlanta, Georgia channels. Greenville may be slightly closer to Toccoa-Stephens County but that should not be the deciding factor in what channels I should be offered.

I want to see news about Georgia including weather, traffic reports, and political candidates. If I am traveling down to Atlanta I would like to hear about the traffic report in Atlanta, not Greenville.

I care nothing about South Carolina's political candidates. I am a Georgia voter. I do not vote in South Carolina's elections. I want to hear about the candidates in Georgia.

I also would like to be able to watch Atlanta Falcons football without having to purchase the NFL package to see my Georgia team!

I would like to spend my money in Georgia, not South Carolina. I'm sure the local advertisers would also like us all to see Georgia advertising rather than Greenville's ads. It would surely be a plus for their bottom line.

Respectfully,

  
Suzanne Fletcher

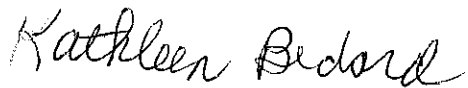
To whom it may concern,

The FCC, because of our location between Atlanta and Greenville, SC, requires us to get South Carolina stations as the 'local station' option on our satellite TV programming package. We are residents of Stephens County in Georgia.

Our political interests are in Georgia, not in SC. The majority of our shopping is done in Georgia, not in SC. Our weather is more closely related to Atlanta than to Greenville. We pay taxes in Georgia, not in SC. We have family members who live and work in Atlanta, so it would be very usefull to be able to get Atlanta traffic reports. We literally have no interest in whatever is happening in Greenville or its surrounding areas in South Carolina.

We have been 'orphans' in the satellite TV coverage world for far too many years. We are Georgia residents, not South Carolina residents. I think it is about time we get the option to get Georgia programming via Atlanta instead of South Carolina programming via Greenville.

Hopefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Bedard".

Kathleen Bedard  
87 Currahee Plantation  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706 244-0862  
kathy@katjim.com

October 5, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to speak in favor of changing our TV channels from the Carolinas to Georgia! I have expressed this desire to DISH several times over the last few years. As citizens living in Georgia, we want Georgia news and weather. We want information on Georgia candidates running for office. We want to see Georgia commercials so that we can shop in Georgia. News about the Georgia Senate and House would be wonderful too.

At the present time, I don't watch the news stations from the Carolinas. Since the Atlanta Journal Constitution is no longer delivered to our area, I don't read a newspaper. My Georgia news is limited to the radio, emails from our representative and senator and the internet.

Please do everything you can to get our communication connections changed to Georgia stations!

Thank you,



Mary McCollum  
1055 Shady Lane  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706-244-0870



Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Nugent  
273 Hilltop Way  
Toccoa, Ga 30577  
(706) 363-1249

Dear Ms. Rider:

My wife and I would like to express our support for receiving satellite television service from Atlanta into the orphaned counties of Northeast Georgia.

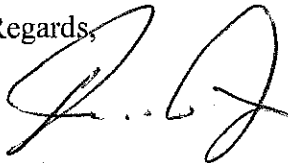
We have resided in Toccoa for the past 9 years and quite frankly, are dismayed that an entire region of the state is left in the dark regarding the news, weather and events that impact our state.

Politics and policy are important in the current environment and we need to know what our representatives are saying & doing.

The opposition from neighboring states is clearly an effort to retain advertising dollars through a larger market and indicates a real lack of concern for the actual well-being and betterment of the residents of our area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and to all of those involved in seeing to it that the people of NE GA receive the best news service and information available to them.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Nugent', written over the word 'Regards,'.

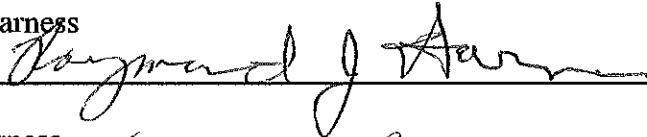
Kevin Nugent

4

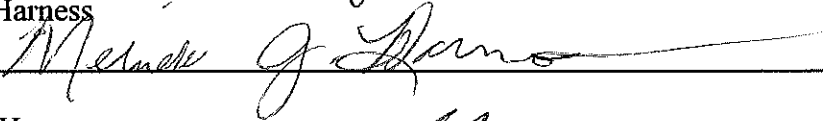
We are writing in support of the Stephens county, Georgia petition for a FCC carriage change from the Greenville, S.C. TV market to the Atlanta, Georgia TV market. Under the current situation, we know more about South Carolina politics then we do about Georgia politics, and that situation is intolerable given that we are residents of Georgia. In addition, we receive little to no news regarding other issues affecting us from the Greenville/Asheville TV stations and regard this situation as intolerable for a Georgia resident. We are strongly in support of the Stephens county petition for a TV carriage change to the Atlanta, Georgia TV market.

Sincerely,

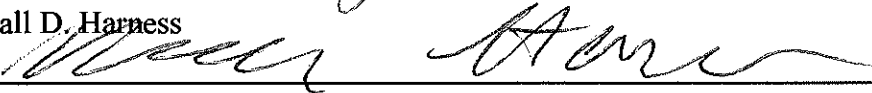
Raymond J. Harness



Melinda J. Harness



Kimball D. Harness



9-27-18

687 Cannon Road  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577

706-886-6762

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS!

DATE: October 6, 2018

NAME: Brian Freeman & Carroll Dougherty

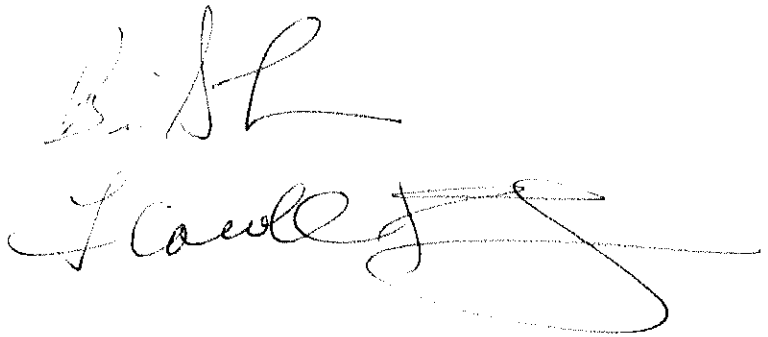
ADDRESS: 113 Timber Ridge Dr, Toccoa, GA 30577

PHONE: 706-886-1155

We would like to know your comments below regarding the Atlanta Station Market.  
Please let us know if you are in Support or Opposition and WHY.

☒ In Support

☐ In Opposition

Two handwritten signatures are present. The top signature is 'B. Freeman' and the bottom signature is 'Carroll Dougherty'.

## COMMENT:

The main reason we are in support of switching to Atlanta-based local television is for  
civic responsibility. At the current time, we receive almost no information from our  
"local" television stations about current events or state-wide elections that affect us or  
that we can impact. Local issues that affect the citizens of North or South Carolina do  
not usually translate to citizens of Georgia. Almost no one we know likes political  
advertising, but when all of the political advertising you see (on the television  
channels that you pay for) has absolutely nothing to do with the candidates that you  
can vote for, it is even worse. At least with Georgia-based local stations, we would  
have the chance to obtain more relevant information. Thank you for your attention to  
this matter.

10/2/2018

I am a resident of Stephens County Georgia and I support the efforts to be able to watch Atlanta TV programming on Direct TV so that I can:

**Know what is happening or proposed in Georgia where I pay state taxes**

**To be better informed of the qualifications of potential Georgia statewide elected officials, allowing me to make a more informed decision when I vote**

**Get Atlanta TV weather reports that provide more details regarding weather forecasts that include Stephens County, especially potentially dangerous storms**

**Be able to watch/follow Georgia sports teams**

**To be able to view and support Georgia Public Broadcasting**

**Have current information on traffic, construction and special events that will allow me to better plan trips to Atlanta and determine my route through Atlanta or how I will get to the airport and the time to allow for my travels.**

Wanting to be a better informed citizen of Georgia

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Roberts".

Jeff Roberts

107 Crawford Manor Drive

Toccoa, Georgia 30577

706-244-6030