

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am on the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

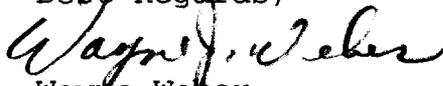
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Wayne Weber
Director-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____



DUPLICATE FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Geri Wolfe
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am on the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Glenn Anderson
Director-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

0

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Telecommunications Analyst for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

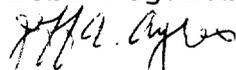
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Jeff A. Ayres

Telecommunications Analyst

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE



RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the General Manager for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

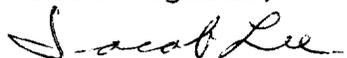
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Jacob Lee
General Manager

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

AUG 2 1994

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Vice-President of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely unserved by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,

Charles Harschlip
Vice-President-DCEC

Charles W. Harschlip

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the President of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,

Stanley Anderson
Stanley Anderson
President, DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

Orig.



MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 738 • FORT MORGAN, COLORADO 80701 • PHONE 303/867-5688

CS 94-48

July 21, 1994

DUCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

I am writing to protest the fact that USSB (United States Satellite Broadcasting, Inc.) has "a lock" on certain popular channels like HBO and Showtime.

This rural electric cooperative is about to begin selling the new 18-inch DBS systems. Our principal source of subscription programming will be a company called *DirecTV*.

But *DirecTV* has not been able to acquire HBO and other premium channels because they are controlled by Time Warner and Viacom. Time Warner and Viacom are dealing exclusively with USSB.

We thought that sort of thing was supposed to end two years ago when the 1992 Cable Act was passed. For quite some time before that, TNT (Turner Network Television) was unavailable to rural electrics like us. But after the Cable Act became law, TNT somehow did make itself available to rural satellite TV owners.

I can't begin to tell you how much interest there is in DBS. I mean, right now today, out in the farms and ranches this cooperative serves, the number of channels & reception is not much different from what it was in 1965.

Based on our experience, with the phone ringing every day, we believe that DBS will bring satellite TV to hundreds of thousands of rural American homes. But we want our programming to be complete, without noticeable gaps. People know that HBO is everywhere, that even in little towns of 300 they have HBO on cable.

Please act to help rural people on this access issue. Folks in north-east Colorado (and probably a lot of people in a lot of other places) will appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vernon M. Tryon
Member Services Manager

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

ClearVision, Inc.

1013 Annandale Drive
Madison, MS 39110
601-773-4440 / 601-853-9576

RECEIVED
AUG 02 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 27, 1994

William F. Caton
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Caton:

My name is Glenn Hughes and I am President of ClearVision, Inc. We are affiliated with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the DIRECTTV project delivering programming to rural customers who are largely not served by cable. We own programming rights for the new Digital Satellite System in eight counties in Central Mississippi. I am writing this letter in support of the comments of the NRTC in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

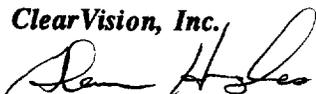
Many of our consumers live in rural areas that cannot receive cable TV. They need to be able to receive all programming available. As a distributor of DBS satellite television programming, equal access to cable and broadcast programming at fair rates is essential for ClearVision to be competitive in our local marketplace. We thought Congress had already solved this problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

ClearVision does not currently have DBS distribution rights for Time Warner and Viacom programming, like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, etc., because of the "exclusive" distribution arrangements they have made with the United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. (USSB). These practices hurt rural customers and thwart the effective competition required by Section 19 of the Cable Act. DIRECTV has no exclusive programming contracts and USSB could offer our programming services if it wished to do so.

I agree with the NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. I would also greatly appreciate your assistance on behalf of rural consumers in Mississippi in encouraging the FCC to correct this inequity.

Sincerely,

ClearVision, Inc.



Glenn Hughes
President

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am on the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,

Eugene Howe
Director-DCEC

Eugene Howe

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

RECEIVED

AUG - 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Vice-President of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

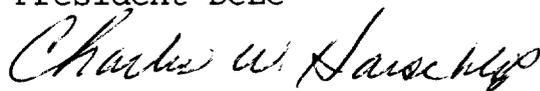
I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,

Charles Harschlip
Vice-President-DCEC



No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,


Geri Wolfe

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

0

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am on the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

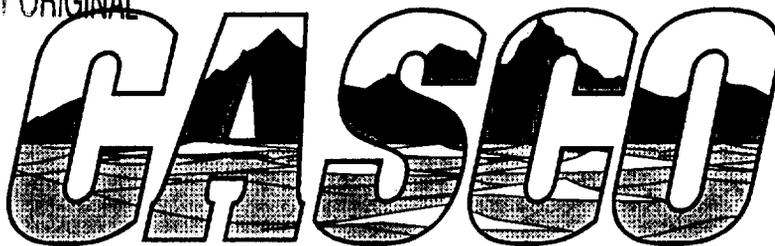
This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,

Glenn Anderson
Director-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd 6
List ABCDE



COMMUNICATIONS

PO Box 655 Philomath OR 97370 929-4000

July 25, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Cable Competition Report
CS Docket No. 94-48

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a cooperative formed by two rural electric and one rural telephone provider, and as a member of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), Casco Communications is a distributor of Rural TV for C-band systems and the DIRECTVtm direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service. As such, my company is directly involved in bringing satellite television to rural consumers.

This letter is to voice my support of the Comments of the NRTC in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumers Protection and Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

Casco Communications' ability to compete in our local rural marketplace is being hampered by our lack of access to programming owned by Time Warner and Viacom, despite passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

This programming, including some of the most popular cable networks like HBO and Showtime and other premium movie channels is available only to my principal competitor, the United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. (USSB), as a result of an "exclusive" contract signed between USSB and Time Warner/Viacom.

However, none of the programming contracts signed by DIRECTVtm are exclusive in nature, and USSB is free to obtain rights to sell any of the channels available from DIRECTV.

Mr. Hundt, Casco Communications agrees with the NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts do not comply with the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. I believe the Act prohibits any arrangement that prevents any distributor from gaining access to

No. of Copies rec'd 9
List ABCDE

Blachly-Lane County
Cooperative Electric
Association
90680 Highway 99
Eugene, OR 97402
688-8711

Consumers Power
Inc.
6990 SW West Hills
Road
PO Box 1180
Philomath, OR 97370
929-3124 or
1-800-872-9036

Pioneer Telephone
Cooperative
1304 Main Street
PO Box 631
Philomath, OR 97370
929-3135

RECEIVED
AUG 2 1994
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

programming to serve non-cabled rural areas. Currently, if one of my customers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom channels, that customer must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. I cannot provide competition with USSB for these services, and without competition the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels is kept unnecessarily high.

Not being able to offer HBO, Showtime and the other USSB channels to my customers has also adversely affected my ability to compete against other sources for television in my area. For several years rural customers have been requesting that Casco's parent electric and telephone cooperatives provide them with quality information and entertainment television from a local service provider that is comparable to cable, which is not available to them. At last, through the availability of the DBS system, the technology is here; but I cannot provide service comparable to cable for these rural customers. I can provide some of the services they have been going without for years, but not the premium channels they know are available to cable subscribers in the urban areas. Now I have customers who cannot understand why I cannot provide them with these services.

Through their membership in the three parent cooperatives, these customers have invested in this project to provide quality and choice in television programming through a local source they can trust. Casco cannot provide the services for the premium offerings available only through USSB, nor can we assure our customers of quality customer service, or local resolution of billing problems, as we can with their DIRECTV programming. Instead, my customers must have two subscriptions, two monthly bills, make payments to two separate companies, and receive no local service for their USSB programming. Cable customers are not required to jump through these kind of hoops to have access to television programming. Rural customers should have the same opportunity and availability of quality television as those with access to cable.

We believe very strongly that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cabled areas. That is why we supported the Tauzin Amendment, embodied in Section 19 of the Act.

Casco Communications is asking the FCC to banish the type of exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal, and in so doing remedy these problems so that the effective competition requirements of Section 19 become a reality for customers in my section of Rural America.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



LeeEllen Brown
General Manger

c:

The Hon. Representative Ron Wyden
The Hon. Representative Peter A. DeFazio
The Hon. Representative Robert F. Smith
The Hon. Senator Mark O. Hatfield
The Hon. Senator Robert Packwood
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the President of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

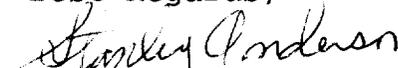
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,


Stanley Anderson
President DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE



Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. BOX 600
GREENWOOD, DELAWARE 19950
(302) 349-4571
1-800-282-8595 (Toll Free in Delaware)
Fax (302) 349-5891

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

94-48

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

July 28, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We strongly support the comments made by the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative concerning carrying out the purpose of Section 19 of the 1992 Cable TV Protection Act.

Our most rural consumers, a large portion of our 48,000 members, live in areas not served by television cable systems. In joint action with Choptank Electric Cooperative of Maryland, we have established Rural Electric Television to help our rural members receive satellite service.

We had thought that the 1992 Cable Act mandated both access and non-discriminatory rates but find this is not fully enforced. We agree with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative's position that the FCC must enforce the clear intent of the Congress in the 1992 Cable Act.

We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

E. Paul Bienvenue
General Manager

jt

cc William F. Caton, Secretary
The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely unserved by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

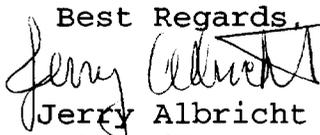
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Jerry Albricht
Secretary/Treasurer-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I am on the Board of Directors for Dunn County Electric Cooperative and an NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely un-served by cable.

With my consumers living in the rural areas that are sparsely populated, cable many times refuses to provide service and will pass-up these individuals. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

I believe that Congress has already solved the problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Yet we are currently being charged significantly more for broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our local area. This discriminatory pricing has been detrimental to our business and is not providing the "healthy" competition that I believe was designed into the 1992 Cable Act. Why should cable companies continue to enjoy a "monopoly" by paying less for their programming than our organization? How can this be fair? And what or how will the FCC "police" the activities of the cable companies?

This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

I agree whole-heartedly with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Most importantly, the FCC needs to monitor and act upon violations of these Program Access Violations.

Best Regards,



Ed Hartung
Director-DCEC

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

0



Clark Electric Cooperative

124 North Main Street
Greenwood, Wisconsin 54437
Telephone (715) 267-6188

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

I am writing this letter in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

Our Cooperative is a distributor of DIRECTV direct broadcast (DBS) television service to a primarily rural area of northwestern Wisconsin. We are also a member of NRTC.

We feel we are being put at a definite disadvantage because of the way United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. (USSB) and Time Warner/ Viacom are restricting our access to many channels by using an exclusive contract. All contracts signed by DIRECTV are non-restrictive and available to USSB at any time. It appears that their attempt to eliminate fair access to these channels will force people to pay higher prices than if the free market were allowed to operate. It appears to us that this counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. This exclusive contract also makes it more difficult for us to market our total package against other types of satellite & cable systems in the area.

We ask that you work diligently to rectify this injustice and disallow USSB and Time Warner/ Viacom from restricting access to channels such as HBO, Showtime etc.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard M. Adler".

Richard M. Adler
General Manager.

cc:
Honorable Senator Herb Kohl
Honorable Senator Russell Feingold
Honorable Representative David R Obey
Honorable Representative Steve Gunderson

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

July 26, 1994



The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 02 1994

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER RACHELLE B. CHONG

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I am writing this letter in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

CVTV, Inc. is a subsidiary of Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, a member of NRTC, and a distributor of the DIRECTV direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service. My company is directly involved in bringing satellite television to rural consumers.

However, despite passage of the 1992 Cable Act, my company's ability to compete in our local marketplace is being hampered by our lack of access to programming owned by Time Warner and Viacom.

This programming, which includes some of the most popular cable networks like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon and others, is available only to my principal competitor, the United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. (USSB), as a result of an "exclusive" contract signed between USSB and Time Warner/Viacom.

In contrast, none of the programming distribution contracts signed by DIRECTV are exclusive in nature, and USSB is free to obtain distribution rights for any of the channels available on DIRECTV.

Mr. Laughlin, my organization agrees with the NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts run counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. I believe that the Act prohibits any arrangement that prevents any distributor from gaining access to programming to serve non-cabled rural areas. Under the present circumstance, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers also wishes to receive the Time Warner/Viacom product, that subscriber must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This hinders effective competition, and as a consequence keeps the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion at the retail level.

Not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom services has also adversely affected my ability to compete against other sources for television in my area. For example, we have

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

had people ask us what type of cable programming we are providing without these channels. Consumers do not understand. "Everyone who subscribes to cable always has access to HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, and others," one consumer states. "If you do not offer this programming, I do not want it," another irate consumer states after he finds out that he cannot have the same channels that he had when he lived in the city and had regular cable television. Many times it's hard to explain to the subscribers the reasoning behind their programming accessibility. They see that almost every other cable company has the opportunity to obtain these channels, why can't they?

We believe very strongly that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cable areas. That is why we supported the Tauzin Amendment, embodied in Section 19 of the Act.

We ask the FCC to remedy these problems so that the effective competition requirements of Section 19 become a reality in rural America. I strongly urge you to banish the type of exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



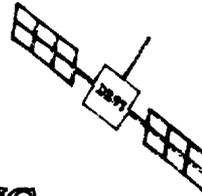
Mark Rutherford
Vice President/Project Manager
CVTV, Inc.

MR/dmm

cc: The Honorable Greg Laughlin
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson
The Honorable Phill Gramm
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness



**DIRECT
BROADCAST
SATELLITE
SYSTEMS, INC.**



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St, NW, Rm 814
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Cable Competition Report
CS Docket No. 94-48

Chairman Hundt,

This is a test - What is wrong with the attached chart? While the 1992 Cable Act went a long way towards ending discriminatory pricing among programmers, there are still major stumbling blocks preventing Rural America from realizing the benefits of fair competition between service providers. As this chart shows, cross ownership between the major players and the use of exclusive contract language are preventing DIRECTV and the NRTC from providing Rural America an alternate source for programming that has long been financially out of reach.

Technological developments in the area of digital signals and compression technology have made the hardware more affordable for Rural America. These Digital Satellite Systems can now be installed for less than nine hundred dollars (\$900). This is less than the cost of some of the televisions they will be serving. The next arena for Rural America to enter is the arena in which they must fight for affordable programming. Affordable programming is brought about by fair competition between providers. The 'exclusive' distribution arrangements entered into by United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. currently prevent major programmers like Time Warner and Viacom from allowing us the opportunity to compete with USSB to provide popular programming like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, and Nickelodeon. We believe these 'exclusive' contracts to be in conflict with the intent of the 1992 Cable Act.

Direct Broadcast Satellite Systems, Inc. has invested over three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to provide cable-type programming to areas of Jackson County, Indiana that will never be served by cable because they are too sparsely populated to make cable access financially feasible. To do this, we must have fair and equal pricing and access in order to compete in the marketplace. The end result is a competitive environment that provides Rural America the option to chose the best service at the best price. If it sounds like 'Motherhood and Apple Pie", IT IS!!!!

We ask the FCC to remedy these problems so that the effective competition requirements of Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act become a reality for Rural America. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger D. Beineke - President
Direct Broadcast Satellite Systems, Inc.
P.O.Box 1009
Seymour, IN. 47274

cc: The Hon. Rep. Lee Hamilton
The Hon Senator Dick Lugar
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong
William F. Caton, Secretary

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0

PROGRAMMING ACCESS

Access to Programming Controlled by Vertically Integrated Cable Companies

PROGRAMMER	DIRECTV™	USSB *	PrimeStar *	3 LARGEST Q-BAND DISTRIBUTORS (HBO, Showtime, MGM (TV))	Cable MCOs (VIACOM) *
Cinemax		X	X	X	X
Flix		X	X	X	X
HBO		X	X	X	X
The Movie Channel		X	X	X	X
Showtime		X	X	X	X
Comedy Central		X	X	X	X
MTV		X	X	X	X
VH1		X	X	X	X
Nickelodeon		X	X	X	X
Lifetime		X	X	X	X
American Movie Classics	X	X	X	X	X
BET	X	X	X	X	X
Bravo	X	X	X	X	X
Cartoon Network	X	X	X	X	X
Country Music TV	X	X	X	X	X
CNN/Headline News	X	X	X	X	X
Court TV	X	X	X	X	X
Discovery Channel	X	X	X	X	X
E! Entertainment TV	X	X	X	X	X
Encore	X	X	X	X	X
Family Channel	X	X	X	X	X
Fox Network	X	X	X	X	X
Home Shopping Network	X	X	X	X	X
The Learning Channel	X	X	X	X	X
QVC	X	X	X	X	X
QVCz	X	X	X	X	X
The Nashville Network	X	X	X	X	X
Sci-Fi Channel	X	X	X	X	X
TNT	X	X	X	X	X
Travel Channel	X	X	X	X	X
Turner Classic Movies	X	X	X	X	X
USA Network	X	X	X	X	X
The Weather Channel	X	X	X	X	X

*** CROSS OWNERSHIP INTERESTS WITH
USSB/TIME WARNER/VIACOM**



Shelby Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 166
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565
Telephone: (217) 774-3986

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

July 25, 1994

RECEIVED

AUG - 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Cable Competition Report
CS Docket No. 94-48

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing this letter in support of the Comments filed by the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket NO. 94-48.

As a rural electric member of NRTC, Shelby Electric Cooperative is directly involved in the distribution of C-band satellite television programming to 8,500 rural consumers in central Illinois.

Currently, Shelby Electric Cooperative is forced to pay significantly more for access to popular cable and broadcast programming than comparably sized cable companies in our area. The fact that we are forced to pay inflated rates for program access means we must in turn charge consumers more for our service, a fact which has already had a detrimental effect on our ability to compete in our local marketplace.

In addition, many of the consumers we serve live in remote areas not served by cable and off-air television. Since these consumers have no other choice for multichannel television programming other than satellite, they are forced to pay higher rates for access to television than their counterparts with access to cable.

It was my impression that, in the 1992 Cable Act, Congress had mandated that all distributors (cable, satellite and otherwise) should be granted equal access to cable and broadcast programming services at non-discriminatory rates. If this is the case, why are we still paying more for many programming services than comparable sized cable companies?

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE