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**PANHANDLE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, INC.**  
A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of PANHANDLE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

GARY KENNEDY  
Chief Executive Officer

July 25, 1994

AUG 17 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a telecommunications company, PTSI is an NRTC member providing television programming to customers in rural Oklahoma. We are writing to support 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.

PTSI's consumers live in rural areas where families have little choice other than satellite for their television programming. With our consumers living in rural areas where cable service is not available, it is imperative that we have access to all programming at fair rates, analogous to rates paid by cable. At present, PTSI is being charged a higher rate for cable and broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our area.

Discriminatory pricing is not only harmful to the service provider, but it also hurts the consumer due to the higher rates they are forced to pay. Why should cable companies in our area receive programming at lower rates than PTSI?

It was PTSI's understanding that the discriminatory pricing issue had been resolved with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. PTSI supports NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the objectives of Congress as provided in the 1992 Cable Act.

Chairman Hundt, we urge you to oversee efforts to correct the problems created by discriminatory pricing in the cable and broadcast programming industry with the enforcement of rules and by making it clear that damages will be awarded for Program Access violations.

Very truly yours,

Gary Kennedy  
Chief Executive Officer

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AUG 02 1994



**Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative**

330 West Ottawa Street • P.O. Box 96 • Paxton, Illinois 60957 • 217/379-2131 • FAX: 217/379-2936

~~FCC MAIL ROOM~~

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July 29, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 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 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.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is a rural electric cooperative serving electricity to rural consumers in ten counties in East Central Illinois. EIEC is a member of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) and we provide television programming to rural consumers who are largely not served by cable television. Our consumers are rural families who have little choice other than satellite for receiving television services that is comparable with cable service.

EIEC is forced to pay significantly higher rates for popular programming than area cable companies. Since we are forced to pay these higher rates, we must also charge our customers more which has a detrimental effect on our ability to compete in our local market place. Because of this, many of EIEC's consumers cannot afford the home entertainment enjoyed by residents of nearby communities.

When the 1992 Cable Act became law, it was my impression that all distributors would be granted equal access to cable and broadcast programming services at nondiscriminatory rates. If that is true, why do cable companies in our area receive programming at a cheaper rate? I believe this is discrimination.

EIEC joins NRTC in calling on the FCC to enforce the intentions of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. I feel that the FCC must prohibit abuses of the 1992 Cable Act by rule and make it clear that damages will be awarded for program access violations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

*Wm. David Champion, Jr.*  
Wm. David Champion, Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
and General Manager

WDC:jk

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CS 94-48

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**SANTEE  
SATELLITE  
SYSTEMS, INC.**

P.O. Box 1164 / Kingstree, SC 29556 / (803) 354-6187



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AUG 2 1994

July 19, 1994

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

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

I am writing this letter state my concerns and ask for your assistance in implementing and enforcing Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act by the Federal Communications Commission.

Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc. formed Santee Satellite Systems to bring Cable Programming to the rural membership of the Cooperative that will never be served by the Cable Companies as we know them today. As a distributor of the DBS satellite television programming, equal access to cable and broadcast programming at fair rates - something that we do not currently have access to - is essential for Santee Satellite Systems to be competitive in our local marketplace. And second, it seems only fair that rural Americans have access to the same programming that urban Americans do!

The attached letter to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt from myself spell out my concerns. It was my impression that Congress had guaranteed equal access to cable and broadcast programming for all distributors with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. That impression was apparently not true.

Some programmers continue to charge unfairly high rates for satellite distributors compared with cable rates. Other programmers - like Time Warner and Viacom - simply refuse to sell programming to some distributors. The exclusive practices hurt rural consumers and destroy the effective competition required by Section 19 of the Cable Act.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance on behalf of the rural consumers in South Carolina in Williamsburg, Clarendon and Georgetown counties, to correct this gross inequity.

Yours truly,

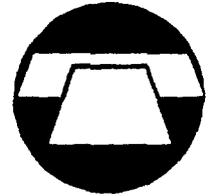
Stan A. Williamson

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CS 94-48

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DILLER TELEPHONE CO.

William P. Sandman, Manager

P.O. Box 218  
Diller, Nebraska 68342  
Telephone (402) 793-5330

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July 20, 1994

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 802  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Barrett:

Included you will find a letter addressed to FCC Chairman Hundt in support of the comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Act of 1992.

As a rural DBS programming provider we feel that the ability to include as much programming as possible in our service areas is vital. Currently we are not able to do this because of exclusive programming arrangements between Time Warner/Viacom and USSB.

We ask that you familiarize yourself with our position in this matter and to please take action in accordance with the Cable Act of 1992.

Thank you for your time in correcting this situation.

Sincerely,  
Diller Telephone Company

William R. Sandman  
William R. Sandman  
President

WRS/jj

cc

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**STAR TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION**

P. O. BOX 348, CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28328  
WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER  
910-564-7890

CS 94-48

July 20, 1994

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Star Telephone Membership Corporation is a member of NRTC and is directly involved in the distribution of C-Band satellite television programming to over 14,000 members in rural North Carolina.

Currently we are required to pay extended prices for popular cable and broadcast programming than cable companies in our area. This has a detrimental effect on our ability to compete in our rural service area.

We are in support of the comments filed by NRTC in the matter of implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. It was my understanding that programming would be priced according to the rates of comparable sized cable companies after passage of this act. Why are we still paying more?

Some programmers have abided within the parameters of the law, still Star Telephone needs fair and equal access to all programming at comparable cable rates.

The FCC must prohibit abuses of program access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act by rule and award damages for program access violation.

Thank you for addressing this matter in a timely fashion.

Yours very truly,

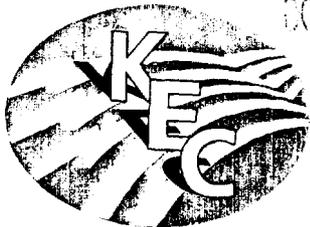
John L. Wengert  
Community Relations Manager

JLW/sb

- xc: William F. Caton
- The Honorable James H. Quello
- The Honorable Rachell B. Chong
- The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
- The Honorable Susan Ness



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# KIWASH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

120 WEST FIRST STREET

P. O. BOX 100

CORDELL, OKLAHOMA 73632

PHONE: (405) 832-3361

FAX: (405) 832-5174

RECEIVED

July 22, 1994

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 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.

Kiwash Electric is a rural utility and NRTC member providing television programming to rural consumers. These consumers live in rural areas that are sparsely populated and do not receive cable service. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving television service. Because they have no other choice except satellite television service, we need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service in rural areas.

We believed that Congress had already solved this problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act, but we are still being charged significantly more for cable and broadcast programming than comparatively sized cable companies in our area. We question why cable companies in our area should receive programming at lower rates than us.

Discriminatory pricing hurts both us and the consumer, because our consumers have no other choice for programming other than satellite and are forced to pay higher rates than those with access to cable. We agree with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act.

Chairman Hundt, we urge you to monitor and combat the problems we have mentioned by prohibiting abusive practices by rule and by making it clear that damages will be awarded for Program Access violations. Your consideration will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

KIWASH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Paul Lenaburg, General Manager

PL:m1

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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July 21, 1994

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The Hon. Kent Conrad  
United States Senate  
Hart Office Building, Room 724  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3403

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Senator Conrad:

I am writing this letter to voice a concern I have regarding the implementation and enforcement of Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act by the Federal Communications Commission.

As a distributor of DBS satellite television programming, equal access to cable and broadcast programming at fair rates - something which we are not currently receiving - is essential for Nodak/Polar to be competitive in our local marketplace.

The attached letters to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt from myself, in addition to Rep. Billy Tauzin and other members of Congress, spell out my concerns on this issue.

It was my impression that Congress had guaranteed equal access to cable and broadcast programming for all distributors with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Despite this fact, however, satellite distributors and consumers continue to be treated unfairly by the cable industry.

Some programmers continue to charge unfairly high rates for satellite distributors compared with cable rates. Other programmers - like Time Warner and Viacom - have simply refused to sell programming to some distributors. These exclusive practices hurt rural consumers and thwart the effective competition required by Section 19 of the Cable Act.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance on behalf of rural consumers in northeastern North Dakota in encouraging the FCC to correct this inequity.

Sincerely,

C. T. Marhula  
Business Manager

CTM/ks  
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CS 94-48

*Nodak*  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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July 21, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

The Hon. Earl Pomeroy  
United States House of Representatives  
318 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Pomeroy:

I am writing this letter to voice a concern I have regarding the implementation and enforcement of Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act by the Federal Communications Commission.

As a distributor of DBS satellite television programming, equal access to cable and broadcast programming at fair rates - something which we are not currently receiving - is essential for Nodak/Polar to be competitive in our local marketplace.

The attached letters to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt from myself, in addition to Rep. Billy Tauzin and other members of Congress, spell out my concerns on this issue.

It was my impression that Congress had guaranteed equal access to cable and broadcast programming for all distributors with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Despite this fact, however, satellite distributors and consumers continue to be treated unfairly by the cable industry.

Some programmers continue to charge unfairly high rates for satellite distributors compared with cable rates. Other programmers - like Time Warner and Viacom - have simply refused to sell programming to some distributors. These exclusive practices hurt rural consumers and thwart the effective competition required by Section 19 of the Cable Act.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance on behalf of rural consumers in northeastern North Dakota in encouraging the FCC to correct this inequity.

Sincerely,

C. T. Marhula  
Business Manager

CTM/ks  
Enclosures

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**POUDRE VALLEY RURAL  
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

4809 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE • P.O. BOX 272550  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO 80527-2550



FORT COLLINS • 226-1234  
FAX NO. • (303) 226-2123

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July 22, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

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

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Re: Cable Competition Report, CS Docket No. 94-48

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association supports 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, Poudre Valley REA is directly involved in the distribution of C-band satellite television programming to many rural consumers in Colorado.

Currently, Poudre Valley REA is forced to pay higher rates for the access to popular cable programming in comparison to comparably sized cable companies in our area. We must pass those inflated costs on to our consumers. Since we serve in rural areas, our consumers have no access to cable programming and must bear those inflated costs for satellite programming.

While some programmers have lowered their prices since the 1992 Act, not all programmers have. Poudre Valley REA asks that the FCC monitor the problems mentioned above. Violations of the Act must require stiff consequences.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Pat Plank*

Pat Plank  
Member Services Representative

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

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Petersburg, NE 68652

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AUG - 2 1994

July 28, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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

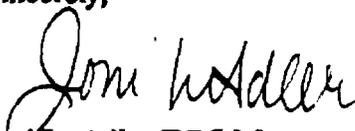
Dear Chairman Hundt:

This is a 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.

I am a NRTC telephone member in the DIRECTV project. Our organization serves seven counties in Nebraska. The bulk of the customers in our area are rural, meaning that they have been unable to receive any television programming. Our customers have very little choice other than to invest in a satellite to get any television entertainment at all.

What our company needs to service our customers is complete access to all programming at fair rates, an equal opportunity. I was in the position that this problem had been solved two years ago with the 1992 Cable Act. I hope that my letter will give you some insight of what a tremendous detriment fair pricing and equal rights to all programming is, to compete in our market place.

Sincerely,



John L. Adler-DBS Manager  
Petersburg Telephone Company

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P.O. Box 8  
 Main Street  
 Montgomery, IN 47558  
 Tel: 812-486-2977 or  
 1-800-55-DBSTV  
 Fax: 812-486-3004

A SUBSIDIARY OF DAVIESS-MARTIN COUNTY R.T.C.

94-48

July 28, 1994

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

RECEIVED  
 AUG - 2 1994  
 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you today in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) regarding the implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Act of 1992.

Our company is a rural telephone cooperative that is very much aware and sensitive to the needs of our subscribers. This is the main reason we have chosen to invest in the DBS project offered through DirecTv. Without the services that DirecTv now offers, these rural people are literally cutoff from what is going on around them, relying strictly on their local newspaper and the 6 and 10 o'clock news. But we are still lacking some fundamental programming that is being tied up, I believe unfairly, by United States Satellite Broadcasting Company Inc.

USSB has locked up the rights to such basic cable channels as MTV, HBO, Showtime, FLIX, just to name a few. This is in direct violation of the intent of the 1992 Cable Act ensuring all consumers equal and fair access to the programming of their choice.

Our subscribers are very disappointed that we, as their local provider of telephone services and, now, video programming cannot deliver what they want and need in television services. We have committed several hundred thousand dollars, in the interest of our subscribers, relying on the fact that we could and should have access to all video services, without discrimination. Mr. Hundt, please consider the needs of the rural consumer in deciding if DirecTv should have fair and equal access to Time-Warner products.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly C. Dyer, President  
 Digital Television Services, Inc.

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lkh

# SmarTVview

P. O. BOX 480  
88 EAST MAIN STREET  
CHILlicoTHE, OHIO 45601

PHONE: (614) 772-8416  
1-800-498-8788  
FAX: (614) 772-8311

July 29, 1994

DUPLICATE OF ORIGINAL

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

RECEIVED  
AUG 2 1994  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to express support for the Comments filed by the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative 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.

SmarTVview, a division of Chillicothe Telephone Communications Inc., which is a rural telephone member of NRTC, will make DBS programming available to more than 150,000 residents in 11 southern Ohio counties. As SmarTVview manager, I can assure that many of these rural residents rely on satellite TV services because they have little or no access to off-air broadcast or cable TV programming.

SmarTVview must have complete access to all programming -- at rates comparable to those paid by our cable competitors -- to provide complete and affordable programming services to our rural subscribers. Currently, this is not the case. We are prohibited from offering our subscribers certain cable channels because of exclusive distribution arrangements dictated by some programmers.

NRTC and DIRECTV™ are denied access to programming owned by Viacom and Time Warner which, coincidentally, are both among the country's largest, vertically integrated cable programmers. Specifically, that means SmarTVview cannot offer HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, VH-1 and other programming to its customers because of exclusive distribution to United States Satellite Broadcasting. Such restrictions have already hampered our marketing efforts and pose a significant disadvantage to our business and our customers in terms of competitive services and prices.

Although I realize great strides against discriminatory pricing practices resulted from passage of the 1992 Cable Act, I believe the Federal Communications Commission must act swiftly and decisively to prohibit these exclusivity contracts. Clearly, such unfair practices and obvious attempts at skewing competition are not what Congress intended!

I urge you to address this serious issue of fairness by monitoring the problems cited by NRTC, prohibiting abuses, imposing damages in cases of violations, and banishing all exclusive distribution arrangements preventing equal access to programming, especially for rural area residents.

Sincerely,

*Gary L. Burmaster*

Gary L. Burmaster,  
Manager

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*One of the Minnesota Power Systems*

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July 21, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

The Hon. Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3405

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Senator Dorgan:

I am writing this letter to voice a concern I have regarding the implementation and enforcement of Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act by the Federal Communications Commission.

As a distributor of DBS satellite television programming, equal access to cable and broadcast programming at fair rates - something which we are not currently receiving - is essential for Nodak/Polar to be competitive in our local marketplace.

The attached letters to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt from myself, in addition to Rep. Billy Tauzin and other members of Congress, spell out my concerns on this issue.

It was my impression that Congress had guaranteed equal access to cable and broadcast programming for all distributors with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. Despite this fact, however, satellite distributors and consumers continue to be treated unfairly by the cable industry.

Some programmers continue to charge unfairly high rates for satellite distributors compared with cable rates. Other programmers - like Time Warner and Viacom - have simply refused to sell programming to some distributors. These exclusive practices hurt rural consumers and thwart the effective competition required by Section 19 of the Cable Act.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance on behalf of rural consumers in northeastern North Dakota in encouraging the FCC to correct this inequity.

Sincerely,

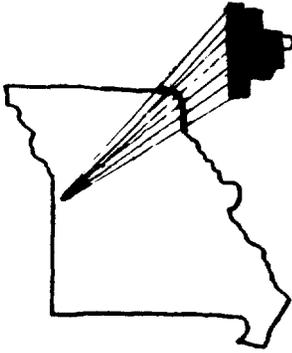
*C. T. Marhula*

C. T. Marhula  
Business Manager

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# Osage Valley Electric Cooperative

Business Highway 71 North

P.O. Box 151

Butler, Missouri 64730-0151

Phone: 816-679-3131

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AUG 2 1994

July 19, 1994

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

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

On behalf of the more than 12,000 members of this Rural Electric Cooperative, and the Cooperative's directors, 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.

We are a Rural Electric Cooperative, a member of NRTC, but we do not deliver television programming to our rural customers. Other Rural Electric Cooperatives do provide this service to our customers who live in areas that are sparsely populated and are not served by cable. These customers have little choice except to depend on a satellite to receive television.

These customers need complete access to all TV programming at rates that are comparable to those paid for cable. This would result in comparable service at comparable rates in the rural areas. Why should cable companies in our area receive lower rates for the same programming?

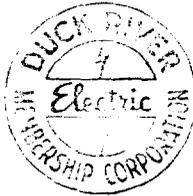
It was our belief that Congress had already solved this problem when they passed the 1992 Cable Act.

Discriminatory pricing hurts our efforts to promote new people to move to the rural areas of West Central Missouri. Although a new customer has to make a sizable investment in receiving equipment, he will do this if he knows that he will receive programming at a competitive cost.

We agree with NRTC's position that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress when they passed the 1992 Cable Act.

Darold Wulfekoetter, Manager

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July 20, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As general manager of a rural electric cooperative that is a member of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), I am writing in support of NRTC's comments as they relate to the Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competitive Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

Consumers served by our cooperative are mostly rural and do not have access to cable television. Therefore, many have home satellite dishes. These consumers should have access to all programming through NRTC at rates comparable to those charged by cable companies.

Although the 1992 Cable Act was a step in the right direction, there are programmers in the market place that have chosen to ignore the intent of the Act. Duck River Electric supports the position of NRTC that the FCC should act to enforce the wishes of Congress as outlined in the 1992 Cable Act.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and solicit your support in putting stronger teeth in the enforcement of the Act.

Yours very truly,

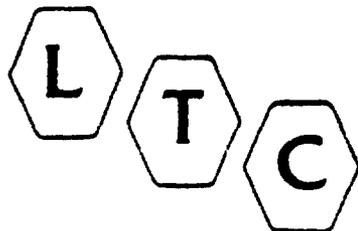
Duck River Electric  
Membership Corporation

C. E. Grissom  
General Manager

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CS 94-48



DUPLICATE - NOT ORIGINAL

Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc.

Phone (219) 894-7161

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

Date: July 21, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I represent the Ligonier Telephone Company, a family owned and operated local exchange company in Indiana. In business for over 90 years, we have recently joined the NRTC to offer DirecTv services to our customers who, in general, have no access to cable television.

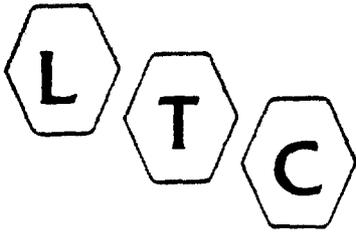
I have an area of concern with regards to program access that is being seriously restricted by Time Warner and Viacom, our major competitors with their Primestar System. While they split and unfairly hinder our efforts to compete in the local marketplace with their exclusive distribution agreement with USSB for programming so that DBS customers must subscribe to two companies ( USSB and DirecTv ) for the full plate of DBS programming available, they place no such restrictions on their own operation or other cable and large dish companies. This is a problem that I thought resolved with the passage of Section 19 in the 1992 Cable Act.

I equate this with us only offering our customers AT&T for their long distance as opposed to equal access. Look at what equal access has done to long distance rates for consumers. The same would apply to DBS rates if there was competition for services instead of the current exclusive arrangement between USSB and Viacom/ Time Warner.

Is the philosophy of the FCC to encourage competition in all forms for communications, be it video, voice or data ? Or is this just a selective vision impaired by the efforts of big-time lobbyists for our main competitors, the vertical operations such as Viacom and Time Warner? Who stands to gain the most from the current monopolistic practices I ask you? Is it USSB or DirecTv? I think not.

DirecTv's DBS system is a new technology that is light-years ahead of anything the Cable Companies currently offer or plan to offer in the near future. The video quality and audio quality alone surpass anything I have seen on cable in Indiana and should be held as the standard that all video service providers should have to meet. While they scream for access\*to the local exchange

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Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc.

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marketplace for dial tone services they refuse to even level the playing field for their own programming services with regards to equal access. This is coming from the industry that forced its own reregulation due to poor business practices. I am more than willing to pay my fair share for access to these services. I don't understand why I am denied that right! I have not heard an acceptable response to that statement yet, have you? Not one of the programming contracts signed by DirecTv with the programmers are exclusive and USSB could also offer those services if they so choose.

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 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.

In closing, Chairman Hundt, I ask that you end these types of exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/ Time Warner/ Viacom deal. I thank you for the chance to contribute my viewpoint to this matter, that of a small LEC that only wishes to offer the very best to its customers.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Schloss

Treasurer

Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc.

cc:

William F. Caton, Secretary

The Hon. James H. Quello

The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett

~~The Hon. Susanna H. Small~~

~~The Hon. Rachelle B. Chittum~~



**VolcanoVision, Incorporated**

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CS 74-48

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07/22/94

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

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AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are a rural Company offering telephone and CATV service to customers in the California Sierras. When National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) got involved in Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) television my company invested over one and one half million dollars to acquire a distributorship in nine counties in California and Nevada. We felt this was the best way for us to serve these sparsely populated areas with television service.

Now I find that we can't offer a competitive programming package to our customers because of some exclusive contracts which we feel are in direct conflict with Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection And Competition Act of 1992.

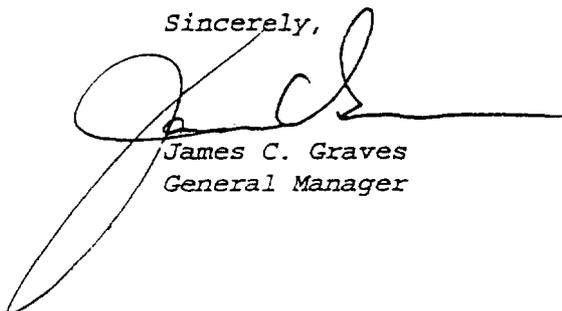
I am referring to the exclusive arrangement between United States Satellite Broadcasting Company (USSB), Time Warner and Viacom. Because of these exclusive contracts we do not have competitively priced access to such popular cable networks as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon and others.

We support and agree with the comments of NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts run counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. I believe the Act prohibits any arrangement that prevents any distributor from gaining access to programming to serve non-cabled rural areas. Under the present conditions, if one of my DirecTV customers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom products they must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This certainly is not what real competition is about. It also increases customer confusion.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graves', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a large loop on the left side.

James C. Graves  
General Manager

JCG/jb

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello  
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
The Honorable Susan Ness  
The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Senator Harry Reid  
The Honorable Senator Richard Bryan  
The Honorable Representative John Doolittle  
The Honorable Representative Barbara F. Vucanovich



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July 25, 1994

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AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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

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

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing today in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) regarding implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Our company is a new business in Vermont and is affiliated with the NRTC to distribute DIRECTV™ direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television in rural Vermont and New Hampshire. Our customer base is comprised largely of individuals in rural households not served by cable given the sparse population. Often their only hope to receive television comes through their ability to receive satellite service of some kind.

We entered into this business based upon our understanding that the 1992 Cable Act had resolved the issue of our ability to have access to all television programming at fair rates comparable to those paid by our competition. This turns out not to be the case. Specifically, "exclusive" distribution arrangements have been made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. (USSB) for Time Warner and Viacom programming such as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV and Nickelodeon. The fact that we cannot provide these channels is a serious detriment to the financial success of our new business and our ability to compete with other services. It will definitely have a profound impact on our investment and our desire and ability to serve our customers.

I urge you, Mr. Hundt, to look closely at the provisions of the 1992 Cable Act and ensure that its purpose is fulfilled. The Act is designed to prohibit any arrangement that prevents any distributor

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from gaining access to programming which could serve rural non-cabled areas of the country. That is why the FCC must remedy these problems in order that the effective competition requirements of Section 19 become a reality for rural places such as ours. Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss this important issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Bloch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert W. Bloch  
President and C.E.O.

cc: The Hon. Bernard Sanders  
The Hon. James M. Jeffords  
The Hon. Patrick J. Leahy  
The Hon. James H. Quello  
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett ✓  
The Hon. Susan Ness  
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

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**TWIN VALLEYS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**

AN **RFA** PROJECT

P.O. Box 160  
CAMBRIDGE, NEBRASKA 69022



Paul J. Liess, General Manager • Phone (308) 697 3315

EX ORIGINAL

July 25, 1994

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

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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, Twin Valleys Public Power District is directly involved in the distribution of C-band satellite television programming to 4,579 rural consumers in Nebraska.

Currently, Twin Valleys Public Power District 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 comparably sized cable companies?

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Page 2 (Federal Communications Commission)

While it is true that some programmers have lowered their rates since the implementation of the 1992 Cable Act, we must have fair and equal access to all programming at rates comparable to those paid by cable or we will be unable to offer satellite television at prices acceptable to rural consumers.

In that regard, Twin Valleys Public Power District joins NRTC in calling on the FCC to monitor and combat the problems that I have mentioned above and to ensure that the intentions of Congress are being upheld with regard to the 1992 Cable Act.

Specifically, I feel that the FCC must prohibit abuses of the program access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act by rule and make it clear that damages will be awarded for program access violations.

I thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Liess  
General Manager



Allamakee-Clayton  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

228 W. Greene Street, P.O. Box 715, Postville, IA 52162  
(319) 864-7611

July 26, 1994

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RECEIVED  
AUG 2 1994  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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 of the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

As a rural electric member of the NRTC and distributor of the DirecTv direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service, we are directly involved in providing satellite service to rural consumers.

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

The United States Satellite Broadcasting Company (USSB), a principle competitor, and Time Warner/Viacom have signed "exclusive" contracts for many channels. These include some of the most popular cable networks like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, and others.

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. Hundt, we agree with the NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts run counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. We also 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 circumstances, if one of our DirecTv subscribers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom product, that

OFFICERS  
ROGER ARTHUR, President  
RODNEY DREWES, Vice President  
DUANE L. KLINK, Sec./Treas.

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DIRECTORS  
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LEO F. BYRNES  
LAVERNE J. GARMS  
MELVIN C. SCOTT  
KENNETH TIMMERMAN  
BERNARD J. WELSH

LARRY W. RLED, General Manager

Hon. Chairman Reed Hundt  
Page 2  
July 26, 1994

subscriber must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This imposes substantially higher costs on the consumer and hinders effective competition, and as a further consequence keeps the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion at the retail level.

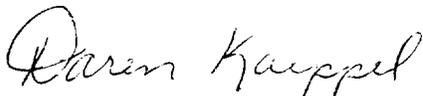
Not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom services has also adversely affected our ability to compete against other sources for television in our area. Primestar, which is a large cable owned medium powered DBS service, is able to proclaim "one stop shopping". This is due to the fact that they have rights to sell premium and basic services. By splitting programming access for a competitor, the large cable companies have been able to stifle competition for their Primestar service.

We strongly believe that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits an exclusive arrangement that would prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural areas. This 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 requirement of Section 19 become a reality in rural America. In addition, we 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,



Daren Kaoppel  
Manager, DBS Operations

cc: The Hon. Charles Grassley  
The Hon. Tom Harkin  
The Hon. James Nussle  
William F. Caton, Secretary  
The Hon. James H. Quello  
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett  
The Hon. Susan Ness  
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong