

Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. *DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL*

KAREN ZIMMERMAN
MANAGER

P.O. BOX 819 • 200 FRISCO
PHONE (903) 994-2211
CUMBY, TEXAS 75433

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JUL 26 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 21, 1994

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

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

Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is an NRTC rural telephone member and an investor in the DIRECTV project delivering television programming to the rural consumers in our area. A great many of these people are not served by cable.

The only alternative for these people to receive quality television programming is through satellite. 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 includes some of the most popular cable networks such as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, and others. These networks are only available 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 comparison, none of the programming distribution contracts signed by DIRECTV are exclusive in nature, and USSB is free to gain distribution rights for any of the channels available on DIRECTV.

There are other competitors in our area such as PrimeStar that has access to the Time Warner/Viacom programming and I don't understand how this can be a fair way of competing or to give our customers a choice of providers which would give them lower prices and improved service.

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Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

KAREN ZIMMERMAN
MANAGER

P.O. BOX 619 • 200 FRISCO
PHONE (803) 984-2211
CUMBY, TEXAS 75433

Mr Hundt, my organization agrees with NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts do not go along with the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. As it is, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom programming, he must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This makes competition very difficult and keeps the price for Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion at the retail level.

My organization has invested a great deal of money in this project only to see that by not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom programming we are having a hard time competing with other sources for television in my area. Several of our potential subscribers have changed their mind about purchasing our programming because we could not offer them the HBO and Showtime packages.

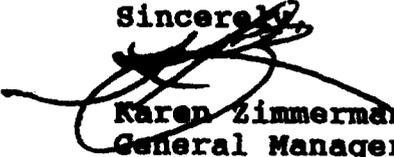
This could very well affect the outcome of our investment and as a small rural telco, we cannot afford to lose that kind of money.

We believe that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cables 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,



Karen Zimmerman
General Manager

cc:

The Hon. Representative Jim Chapman
The Hon. Senator Phil Gramm
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

July 26, 1994



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William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Secretary Caton,

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 /

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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
The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

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DEEP EAST TEXAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
202 Tenaha Street - P. O. Box 708
Center, Texas 75935
(409) 598-2000 - Fax (409) 598-2003

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AUG 02 1994

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July 25 1994

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William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Caton:

We would like to make you aware of our concerns on the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC). We have enclosed a copy of a letter to Chairman Reed Hundt of the Federal Communications Commission.

We appreciate your review of this letter and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Foster
Deep East Texas Telecommunications, Inc.
Tolbert Foster, President

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DEEP EAST TEXAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

202 Tenaha Street - P. O. Box 708

Center, Texas 75935

(409) 598-2000 - Fax (409) 598-2003

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AUG 02 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 25, 1994

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are 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, C S Docket No. 94-48.

We are an NRTC member in the DIRECTV project delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely not served by cable. Most of our consumers live in rural areas that are too sparsely populated to receive Cable TV. These households have very little choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

Therefore, we need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by our competition, in order to compete in our local marketplace. We believed that Congress had already solved this problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

We currently do not have DBS distribution rights for some of the most popular programming, like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, ect., because of the "exclusive" distribution arrangements they have made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. (USSB). Consequently, consumers interested in receiving this programming must subscribe to two separate packages. If these services were offered by both DIRECTV and USSB, our consumers would have a choice about their service provider. None of the programming contracts signed with DIRECTV are exclusive and USSB could offer those services if it wanted to.



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

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AUG 2 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 28, 1994

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

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DigiCom Services, Inc.

Post Office Box 803
713 Laurel Drive
Sandersville, Georgia 31082
1-800-241-3999

Aug 6 1994



Member National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative

July 28, 1994

DUPLICATE COPY ORIGINAL

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

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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 Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

DigiCom Services, Inc. is an affiliate of NRTC and a distributor of the DIRECTV™ direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service. We are directly involved in bringing satellite television to the rural areas of America.

My company's ability to compete has been severely hampered by the lack of access we have to programming owned by Time Warner and Viacom. This situation exists despite the passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

The programming we are unable to obtain includes some of the most popular networks today like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon and others. If a consumer wishes to receive these channels they would have to turn to my principal competitor, the United States Satellite Broadcasting Company, (USSB), as a result of an "exclusive" contract signed between USSB and Time Warner/Viacom.

In contrast to this "exclusive" deal none of the programming distribution contracts signed by DIRECTV are exclusive, and USSB is free to provide any of the channels available on DIRECTV.

Mr. Hundt, my organization is in agreement with the NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts run counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. It is my understanding that the Act prohibits any arrangement that prevents any distributor from

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2
July 28, 1994

gaining access to programming to serve rural areas that cannot receive cable. Under the circumstances that exist now, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers wanted to obtain one of the channels owned by Time Warner/Viacom, the subscriber would have to purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This hinders effective competition, and also keeps the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. Consumer confusion is also increased at the retail level.

My ability to compete with other sources for television in my area have also been hampered by not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom channels. All of the TVRO dealers are able to provide channels like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, and the Movie Channel while we are not. When a consumer learns that they cannot get one of these channels through us, and that they would have to go through a separate program provider, many are deterred.

We believe very strongly that the 1992 Cable Act outright 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.

We ask the FCC to solve 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 exclusive contract that USSB and Time Warner/Viacom have entered into.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



JONATHAN W. MOORE
President

JWM:kbr

cc: The Honorable Cynthia McKinney
The Honorable J. Roy Rowland
The Honorable Sam Nunn
The Honorable Paul Coverdell
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong



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July 25, 1994

JUL 29 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

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.

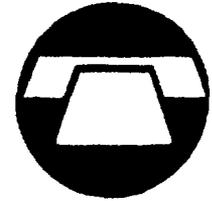
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Bloch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent part.

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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DILLER TELEPHONE CO.

William P. Sandman, Manager

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

July 20, 1994

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JUL 20 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William F. Caton
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commissioner Caton:

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

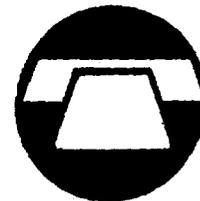
William R. Sandman
President

WRS/jj

cc

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DILLER TELEPHONE CO.

William P. Sandman, Manager

P.O. Box 218

Diller, Nebraska 68342

Telephone (402) 793-5330

July 20, 1994

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

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

As a rural telephone company and member of NRTC, we have begun to distribute DIRECTV (TM) and DBS television service to customers in S.E Nebraska and N.E. Kansas.

However, despite passage of the 1992 Cable Act, our company finds it difficult to compete in our local marketplace because of a lack of access to programming owned by Time Warner and Viacom. Access to programming from these huge providers would make our offerings more complete and consumer satisfaction would also increase in areas where cable-type services were not available previously.

Time Warner and Viacom supply very popular networks like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, and others with programming. Their programming is available only to our principal competitor in DBS, 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 (TM) are exclusive in nature, and USSB is free to obtain distribution rights for any of the channels available on the service we offer.

Mr. Hundt, Diller Telephone agrees with the NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts run counter to the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. The Act, in my opinion, was designed to prohibit 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 wants to receive Time Warner/Viacom programming, that subscriber must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. To get Time Warner/Viacom programming there is no other choice and effective competition is being hindered. At our local level there is quite a bit of consumers confusion concerning where to get programming because of this.

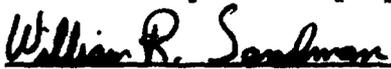
Not having access to services such as HBO, Showtime, and Cinemax etc. has adversely affected our ability to compete against other sources in the area such as PRIMESTAR and microwave towers. They call themselves "Country Cable" and have access to Time Warner/Viacom programming. With access to the programming in question, our DIRECTV service will have no barriers to freely compete in the non-cabled areas which we serve. Our customers have expressed a desire to purchase all of their programming needs from us because of our local reputation for quality service and pricing. It is extremely difficult for our sales representatives to explain to the consumer why they cannot purchase all of their DBS programming from us, especially since the passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

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 non-cabled rural areas. That is why NRTC 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 the Act become reality in rural America. We strongly urge you to banish exclusive arrangements like the ones between Time Warner/Viacom and USSB.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Diller Telephone Company

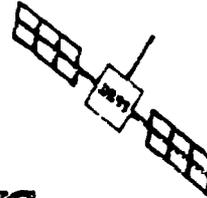

William R. Sandman
President

cc: The Honorable Representative Doug Berueter
The Honorable Senator Robert Kerrey
The Honorable Senator Jim Exxon
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

WRS/jj



**DIRECT
BROADCAST
SATELLITE
SYSTEMS, INC.**



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

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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. Rachele B. Chong
William F. Caton, Secretary

PROGRAMMING ACCESS

Access to Programming Controlled by Vertically Integrated Cable Companies

PROGRAMMER	DIRECTV*	USSB*	PrimeStar*	1 LARGEST C-BAND DISTRIBUTORS (SEE LISTING)	Cable MBOs (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
QVC2	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**



133 South Third Street • Suite 330
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
Phone: (502) 582-4420
Fax: (502) 582-4426

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July 27, 1994

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing 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.

Direct Programming Service is an affiliate of NRTC in the DIRECTV project whose goal it is to deliver quality television programming to rural areas not served by cable. Here in the state of Kentucky, many consumers only alternative to poor, off air reception of one or two channels is satellite television. We need complete access to all programming at fair prices, comparable to those paid by our competition, in order to compete in our marketplace. We had believed that Congress had already solved this problem with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act.

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Direct Programming Service currently does not have DBS distribution rights for Viacom and Time Warner programming like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, MTV, VH-1 and Nickelodeon because of the "exclusive" distribution arrangements they have made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Company, Inc.(USSB). Other distributors of programming like Primestar, cable companies in Kentucky and local and regional wireless cable organizations have gained access to these Viacom and Time Warner services while we have not. This severely damages our ability to compete in Kentucky which in the final analysis will be detrimental to consumers in the state.

This existing situation has caused much confusion among consumers. Under the current arrangement, customers who wish to subscribe to DIRECTV programming and include Time Warner and Viacom services must subscribe to two separate, competing packages. The consumer then will receive two separate bills for their programming and be forced to call two different numbers to add to or change their service. We have spoken to many consumers who do not understand why they cannot purchase HBO and Showtime from our organization. In fact, we have had some customers who have decided to not purchase DIRECTV programming because we could not offer them the convenience of receiving one programming statement per month.

If these services were offered by both DIRECTV and USSB, consumers would be able to choose their programming provider. This would result in improved and effective competition which always leads to benefits to the consumer. These are, of course, improved service and lower prices.

One situation that exists that we do not understand is the fact that none of the programming contracts signed by DIRECTV are exclusive, which we believe is the way things should be. USSB could offer these services if they chose to. On the other hand, we are locked out of providing our customers with the Time Warner and Viacom services.

We agree with the NRTC's position that the FCC should act now to enforce the wishes of Congress and the American people as put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Please, Mr. Chairman, closely monitor this situation and banish this type of exclusionary agreement represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Corley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Bill Corley
President**

**cc: The Hon. Representative Romano Mazzoli
The Hon. Representative Hal Rogers
The Hon. Representative Jim Bunning
The Hon. Representative Scotty Baeseler
The Hon. Representative Ron Lewis
The Hon. Senator Wendell Ford
The Hon. Senator Mitch McConnell
William F. Caton, Secretary —
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong
Steve Bing**



1411 MADISON STREET P. O. BOX 89
SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE 37160
PHONE 615 684-4621

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July 20, 1994

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

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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. Grisson
General Manager

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

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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.

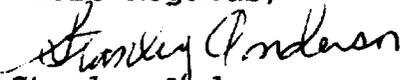
I need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by cable, in order to provide comparable service to these rural tax payers.

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?

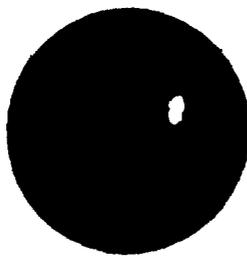
This discriminatory pricing hurts both our business but most importantly the consumer, the average American looking for reasonable television programming at a fair, just price, while I'm unable to compete in my own local marketplace.

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

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Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

330 West Ottawa Street • P.O. Box 96 • Paxton, Illinois 60957 • 217/579-2151 • FAX: 217/579-2936

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AUG 01 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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.

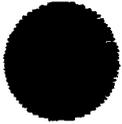
Respectfully,

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

WDC:jk

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Falls Earth Station, Inc.

P.O. Box 236, Route 20, Madison, NY 13402
Phone: (315) 893-1826 Fax: (315) 821-7217

July 20, 1994

William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 222
Washington, DC 20554

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JUL 27 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

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Dear William F. Caton:

I am writing to you in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of the 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 have been involved with rural cable television since the 1970's, and with satellite television (especially in the rural areas) since its inception. We are an affiliate of NRTC and distributor of DIRECTV broadcast television services.

Ever since the first widespread use of satellites to distribute multiple channels of television to the rural areas, large vertically integrated cable/programming entities have sought to unfairly protect their virtual monopoly over video distribution. These large monopolistic enterprises did not want the customers in front of their wired plant to have any real alternative to the wired cable, especially when the rates were deregulated. Consequently, the basic approach of the large cable MSO/programmer conglomerations has been to withhold delivery and discriminate on wholesale prices to competing delivery technologies, thereby making it expensive and confusing for consumers to by-pass their delivery plant.

These anti-competitive tactics were specifically recognized by congress with the 1992 Cable Act. By far the most promising competition for the delivery of television services is the start of Direct Broadcast Services to small dishes. However, the same companies that have stifled competitive delivery of television have now found a method to circumvent the letter and intent of the 1992 Cable Act. The exclusive arrangement between many of the programmers with USSB will again guarantee that programming is both expensive and confusing to DIRECTV customers.

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These same companies have been involved in their own Direct Satellite Broadcast venture, PrimeStar. I have felt that their half hearted effort to compete in the past via direct satellite broadcasts with their wired plant was a cynical attempt to keep their customers from straying to satellite. There were only seven channels to watch, and it was relatively expensive compared service delivered on their wired cable plants. Since DIRECTV, they have recognized that direct satellite delivery is no longer a minor competitive threat. So now, PrimeStar has leaped into action with a whole host of channels. Unlike the situation for their competition, PrimeStar customers may purchase all programming from a single source, with one phone call, on one monthly bill.

With the exclusive USSB programming arrangements for much of the programming, the Cable/Programmer consortium has ensured that a consumer may not get all of the services from a single source, with one phone call, on one monthly bill. Through such exclusive deals, they have managed to segment the offerings of their competition. Their goal has not changed. Just as in the past, through access restrictions and wholesale price discrimination, these companies are trying to keep things expensive and confusing for any customers other than their own.

All we want is what the 1992 Cable Act tried to give us: equal access to programming services at non-discriminatory prices. We ask that you help remedy these anti-competitive tactics by enforcing a prohibition against the exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal.

Thank you for your attention. The public deserves a chance to enjoy the benefits of fair and open competition for video delivery.

Cordially,



Gerald R. Barnes

GRB/clp



Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

P. O. Box 217 * Rainville, Alabama 35986 * Telephone (205) 638-2144 * FAX (205) 638-4830

July 25, 1994

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Gerald Lacey - General Manager

James Wilbanks, President
Leo Grimes, Vice President
Jerome Bryant, Secretary
Gary Stevins, Treasurer
Tommy A. Gilbert, Director
T. E. Edd Whitton, Director
Randy Wright, Director
Morgan Weeks, Attorney

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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 the 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.

Farmers Telephone is an NRTC member investor in the direct TV project to provide television programming to mostly rural consumers in DeKalb and Jackson Counties in Alabama. Most of these consumers do not have access to cable TV. Most of these consumers live in sparsely populated areas and are unlikely to ever have access to cable, therefore their only choice to receive television service is by satellite. We need complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by our competition, in order to compete in our local market. We thought that Congress had already solved this problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. We do not currently have DBS distribution rights for Time Warner and Viacom programming, like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, the Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, and others, because of the exclusive distribution arrangements they have made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Co., Inc. (USSB).

The lack of access to this programming is detrimental to our business and is hindering our ability to compete in our local area. Farmers Telephone Cooperative is owned by it's 16,000 members and has made a considerable investment in DBS to provide this service to them. It is hard to understand why PrimeStar, Wireless Cable and Cable TV companies should have access to this programming and we do not. The lack of this programming is unfair to our consumers because under the current USSB exclusive distribution arrangements, consumers interested in receiving Time Warner and Viacom programming must subscribe to two separate competing packages.

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"Where Traditional Values and Modern Technology Meet."