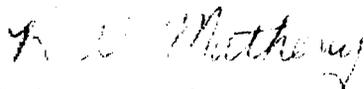


We will be unable to offer satellite television at prices acceptable to rural consumers unless fair and equal access to all programming is available. In that regard, Tri-County Electric Cooperative joins NRTC in calling on the FCC to monitor and combat the problems that I have mentioned above and to 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. The FCC is starting to help cabled customers by lowering their costs; please help the satellite customers by implementing the provisions to lower their costs.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Matheny
General Manager

TWIN VALLEYS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
AN

REA

PROJEC

P.O. Box 180
CAMBRIDGE, NEBRASKA 69022

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



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JUL 28 1994

July 25, 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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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.

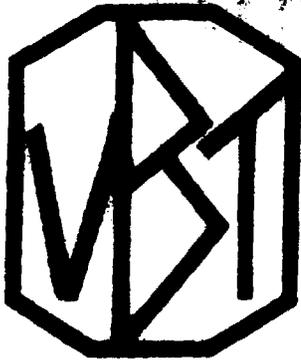
Sincerely,

**Paul J. Liess
General Manager**

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JUL 26 1994

VAN BUREN TELEPHONE CO., INC. FCC MAIL ROOM



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July 22, 1994

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

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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.

As a rural telephone member of NRTC and distributor of DIRECTV direct broadcast satellite television service, my company is adversely affected by the current exclusive programming arrangement between USSB and Time Warner/Viacom. Our rural families have been waiting patiently for a fair and comprehensive viewing package for years and satellite service is basically the only viewing option that most of them have due to the fact that it is not economically feasible to offer buried cable TV service to the rural areas.

Chairman Hundt, my organization agrees with NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts are in direct conflict with the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. It was our understanding that this act prevented any distributor of gaining access to exclusive programming in the rural non-cabled areas. Further USSB is not limited from obtaining any of the services that we can now offer.

Van Buren DBS, Inc. is bordered by Prime Star, TCI, and Rural TV of Iowa (offering microwave cable TV service). All of these competitors have access to the Time Warner and Viacom programming that we have been excluded from obtaining. We are at a great disadvantage to these large distributors as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, MTV, Lifetime and Nickelodeon are frquently requested programming. In an effort to bring quality programming packages to our subscribers and compete with these bordering companies, we need to have access to the Time Warner/ Viacom services. Even if an arrangement could be made between NRTC

P.O. Box 430 615 First Street Keosauqua, Iowa 52565 319-293-3187

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and USSB to offer these services, they would be at an elevated price due to having to deal with a middleman rather than directly with Time Warner and Viacom. Furthermore, the lack of competition would not give subscribers a chance at a fair rate.

So how do we monitor pricing and service in a non-competitive atmosphere? I know that addressing this very issue was the intent of the Cable Act of 1992. We implore you to enforce the wishes of Congress by banishing this type of exclusionary arrangement as currently exists between USSB and Time Warner/Viacom.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Appleman
Assistant Manager

cc:

William F. Caton
James H. Quello
Andrew C. Barrett
Rachelle B. Chong
Susan Ness



RECEIVED

July 19, 1994

JUL 26 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As an affiliate investor of National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and distributor of the DIRECTV™ direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service in eight rural counties in North Georgia, my company, ViewStar Entertainment Services, Inc., is directly involved in bringing satellite television to rural consumers.

Currently 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.

Not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom services has also adversely affected my ability to compete against local cable TV systems and PrimeStar in my area. It is my understanding that 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, 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 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.

I believe very strongly that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cabled areas.

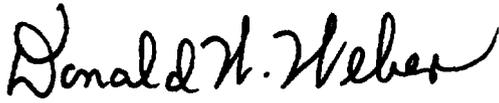
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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
July 19, 1994
Page Two.

View Star's management asks 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald W. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald W. Weber
President and CEO

cc.

The Hon. Senator Sam Nunn
The Hon. Senator Paul Coverdell
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness



**Washington Electric
Membership Corporation**

258 North Harris Street
Post Office Box 598
Sandersville, Georgia 31082
Telephone (912) 552-2577

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JUL 26 1994

July 20, 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

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.

Washington EMC, as a rural electric member of NRTC and distributor of the DIRECTV™ direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television service, is directly involved in bringing satellite television to rural consumers.

The majority of our member consumers live in rural areas that are too sparsely populated to receive cable TV. These rural households have little choice other than satellite for receiving television services. Washington EMC needs complete access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by our competition, in order to compete in our marketplaces.

Currently we do not have DBS distribution rights for Time Warner and Viacom programming, like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, etc., because of the "exclusive" distribution arrangements they have made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. (USSB). It was our understanding that Congress had already solved this problem two years ago with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act. We briefly question why other distributors (PrimeStar, Wireless Cable, etc.) have access to HBO and Showtime and we do not.

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"Owned By Those We Serve"

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2
July 20, 1994

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.

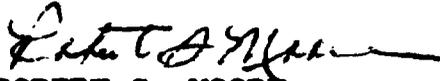
If one of our DIRECTV subscribers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom product, that subscriber must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This hinders effective competition, and as a consequence keeps the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion at the retail level.

If these services were offered by both DIRECTV and USSB, consumers would be able to choose their service provider, resulting in the primary benefits of effective competition: lower prices and improved service.

Chairman Hundt, 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. We strongly encourage you to monitor and combat the problems we have mentioned by banishing the type of exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


ROBERT S. MOORE
General Manager

RSM: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



July 27, 1994

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WEST RIVER

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

P.O. BOX 467 HAZEN, NORTH DAKOTA 58545

TELEPHONE: (701) 748-2211

FAX: (701) 748-6800

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AUG 02 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing this letter in support of the Comments 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.

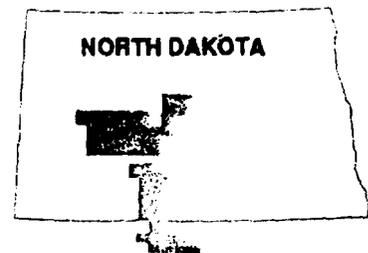
As a rural telephone member of NRTC and a distributor of the DIRECTV Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) television service, my company is directly involved in bringing satellite television to rural consumers in North and South Dakota.

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 (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.

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SERVING THE AREA OF NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA ...

*The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman, FCC
July 27, 1994
Page 2*

Mr. Hundt, West River Telecommunications 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 circumstances, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom product, that subscriber must purchase a second subscription to 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.

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

*Rockne T. Bonsness
Marketing Representative*

RTB/co

cc:

*The Hon. Representative Earl Pomeroy, North Dakota
The Hon. Representative Tim Johnson, South Dakota
The Hon. Senator Kent Conrad, North Dakota
The Hon. Senator Byron Dorgan, North Dakota
The Hon. Senator Thomas Daschle, South Dakota
The Hon. Senator Larry Pressler, South Dakota
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong*



July 22, 1994

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JUL 26 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

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

As a rural telephone 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 in a five county area in Northeastern Georgia. Many of my potential customers for DBS live in rural areas that are too sparsely populated to receive Cable TV. These rural customers have little choice other than satellite for receiving quality television service. Therefore, I need access to all programming at fair rates, comparable to those paid by my competition in the local marketplace.

However, despite passage of the 1992 Cable Act, my company's ability to compete in my local marketplace is being hampered by my 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. This is clearly an unlevel playing field.

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2
July 22, 1994

Mr. Hundt, my company agrees with the 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 circumstance if one of my DIRECTV subscribers also wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom Products, that subscriber must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This hinders effective competition and keeps the price of the Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion and frustration at the retail level.

Not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom services will also adversely affect my ability to compete against other sources for television in my area. While we are just getting started in our area with DIRECTV, customers who have already signed up for service and those who are inquiring about the service just do not understand why they can't purchase HBO, Showtime and other popular channels from my company.

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

I ask on behalf of my company that the FCC remedy these problems and obstacles so that effective competition as intended in Section 19 of the Cable Act become a reality in rural America.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues to banish the anti-competitive and exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner Viacom deal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


George A. Dyson
President

LBH/dwb

xc: William F. Caton, Secretary ✓
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Page 2
July 19, 1994

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. Our customers do not understand why they can't purchase HBO and Showtime from us.

We believe very strongly that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cabled areas. That is why we support 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.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth Lein
Manager

cc: The Honorable Representative Fred Grandy
The Honorable Representative Jim Leach
The Honorable Representative Jim Lightfoot
The Honorable Representative Jim Nussle
The Honorable Representative Neal Smith
The Honorable Senator Charles Grassley
The Honorable Senator Tom Harkin
✓ William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

YELCOT TELEPHONE CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 789
MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS 72653
PHONE (501) 425-3100

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July 20, 1994

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

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JUL 26 1994
FCC MAIL ROOM

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.

As a rural telephone member of NRTC and 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. Hundt, 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.

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
July 20, 1994
Page - 2

Under the present circumstance, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers also wishes to receive 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 service has also adversely affected by ability to compete against other sources for television in my area. Primestar, a satellite programmer owned by several cable companies, has advertised heavily in Arkansas. They have all of the programming for themselves, but refuse to sell it to me. I thought the 1992 Cable Act outlawed this type of behavior. The people who sell Primestar and other big dish applications have flooded rural Arkansas with flyers promising "Cable Programming Anywhere". I have called their 800 numbers and mentioned that I am interested in the new DBS 18" dishes. They uniformly tell me that would be a mistake because "the programming is very limited". This is a direct quote, call him yourself - his number is 1-800-488-5148.

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

I 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,



Lang Zimmerman
Vice President

LZ/cc

cc: The Hon. Representative Tim Hutchinson
The Hon. Senator Dale Bumpers
The Hon. Senator David Pryor
William F. Caton, Secretary
The Hon. James H. Quello
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
The Hon. Susan Ness
The Hon. Rachele B. Chong