



MICHAEL G. OXLEY  
17th DISTRICT, OHIO

2233 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2004  
(202) 225-3470

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
TRADE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
AND FINANCE  
VICE CHAIRMAN



# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### Washington, DC 20515-3504

June 26, 1996

DISTRICT OFFICE  
3121 WEST ELM, PH 11  
LIMA, OH 41801  
(419) 882-6151

100 EAST MAIN, CH 11  
MANSFIELD, OH 44901  
(419) 423-1110

24 WEST THIRD, ST 11  
ROOM 33  
MANSFIELD, OH 44901  
(419) 522-6157

TOLL FREE IN OHIO:  
1-800-473-4154

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing concerning Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for the purpose of underscoring congressional intent.

Section 207 was enacted to promote competition and consumer choice in the multichannel video distribution marketplace. Specifically, members of Congress were concerned about state and local encumbrances, whether governmental or private, that would have the effect of denying consumers access to high power direct broadcast satellite services in their homes through restrictions on the use of reception devices. Such constraints are expressly prohibited by the Act.

Our policy objective was to guarantee consumers access to a variety of video services, including direct broadcast satellite services. While some local regulations concerning reception antennae may be permissible -- for example, those necessary to protect public safety -- those that would have the effect of preventing the use of DBS dishes are preempted. I trust that the Commission will be mindful of the spirit of Section 207 during its rulemaking, consistent with the Act and all applicable rules and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Michael G. Oxley, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade,  
and Hazardous Materials

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness



## Fact Sheet on Rental Housing in the U.S.

---

### Nearly 40 Percent of the Nation's Households Either Rent Their Homes or Live in Condominiums or Co-ops.

- Of the 94.7 million households in the United States, 38.3% (36.3 million) either rent their homes or live in owner-occupied condominiums or co-ops.<sup>1</sup>
  - 35.2% (33.4 million) of all households are rentals.<sup>1</sup>
  - 4.6% (4.35 million) of all households are condominiums or co-ops (either owner- or renter-occupied).<sup>2</sup>

### Minorities, Single Parents (Especially Single Mothers) and Low-Income Groups Are Disproportionately Affected by Laws Which Discriminate Against Renters.

#### *Minorities*

- 57% of all African American households are renters.<sup>1</sup>
- 57.8% of all Hispanic households are renters.<sup>1</sup>
- 47.4% of Native American households are renters.<sup>1</sup>
- 48.8% of Asian households are renters.<sup>1</sup>
- 31.4% of all Caucasian households are renters.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Single Parents*

- 64.8% of all single mothers rent their homes; 43.9% of single fathers rent their homes.<sup>1</sup>
- The median household income for non-married female renters is \$11,917; for non-married male renters, the median income is \$20,206.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Lower- and Low-Income Households*

- 50.8% of all renters are in lower-income groups (households with less than the median household income).<sup>2</sup>
- 25% of all renters are in low-income groups (households under the poverty level).<sup>1</sup>
- 91% of low-income households are rentals.<sup>1</sup>
- 13.2% of renters receive Welfare or SSI.<sup>1</sup>
- 17% of renters receive Food Stamps.<sup>1</sup>
- 15% of renters receive some form of housing assistance (i.e., public, subsidized or rent-controlled housing).<sup>1</sup>

### Senior Citizens Also Comprise a Large Number of Renter Households

- 21% of all renters in the U.S. are above the age of 55<sup>2</sup>
- 19.3% of all renters receive Social Security.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Our Nation's Housing in 1993*, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

<sup>2</sup> *Housing Vacancy Survey - Second Quarter 1996*, U.S. Census Bureau, July 1996