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AUG 19 1998

From: Mark Sorensen <accsat@maxinet.com>
To: "Susan Ness" <sness@fcc.gov>, "Regina Keeney" <rke...
Date: 8/19/98 12:13pm
Subject: Satellite TV - Network Channels

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I have been in the consumer electronics business my entire adult life, a satellite TV dealer for the past 8 years. We install all types of satellite systems and reception systems for local broadcast channels.

The US Copyright office has issued a statement regarding the Network Channel carriage on satellite TV, their claim of 'Don't Blame Us, Blame Your Satellite Carrier' is downright lame.

Clearly the federal government created an unworkable situation in the SHVA (Satellite Home Viewers Act). A situation that clearly places satellite TV at a distinct and severe disadvantage to cable TV. Cable TV could not have written a better script. The fact that the Cable TV industry and Broadcast industries play key roles in the regulation of satellite TV is alarming.

Obviously the "Network Channel via Satellite TV" situation is a mess. It serves to hobble satellite TV with rules that are not anywhere close to "user friendly"; "consumer understandable"; "economically feasible"; or "technically feasible". The rules OBVIOUSLY favor Cable TV, and broadcasters. And is no where near a level playing field for video delivery.

The federal government created the situation. It is past time that personnel in the federal government recognize this fact. And do something. Something, other than passing the buck, wringing their hands, cowing to the Cable TV industry, cowing to the Broadcasting industry, and help out the average family trying to watch TV.

At all levels, the public, congress, the FCC, et al, cry about the lack of competition to Cable TV, yet the federal government has created many laws and regulations that clearly place Cable TV at an advantage. The words are in sharp contrast to the actions of the federal government in this matter.

The US Copyright Office's response in this matter is a perfect example of why many people in the US consider their federal government to be "inefficient", "more concerned with special interests, lobbyists, and campaign contributions than with fairness or the "American Public". What a disappointment.

Sincerely

Mark Sorensen
ACC Satellite TV

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: "Dave Gustafson" <Daveg@serv.net>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("John_McCain@mccain.senate.gov")
Date: 8/19/98 2:47am
Subject: Satellite delivered network TV availability

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AUG 19 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dave Gustafson
2517 Lake Dr.
Everett, WA 98205

Dear Senator McCain:

Cable prices in my community are constantly increasing. I believe the only way to fix this problem is to create a comparable alternative to my cable provider. As a consumer, I want a choice in cable providers. Satellite TV is the only other viable alternative to cable, but with satellite I am unable to watch my local network channels other than KOMO-Seattle.

I understand you have introduced legislation to change the current law, which is preventing me from having a choice. This letter is to let you know I support S. 1422, but even more so, I support giving Satellite providers the ability to offer me my local stations. A change in the law is important to me as a Primetime 24 subscriber, and your support in underwriting this change is important to me as your constituent and a member of the American voting public.

I believe EchoStar and others should be permitted to provide local programming soon--without the must-carry provisions which it does not have the capacity to fulfill. That way, EchoStar, Directv and the other providers such as Primetime 24 will be able to offer voters like me a fully-competitive alternative to cable.

Sincerely,
Dave Gustafson Daveg@serv.net

CC: FCC Chairman Kennard; FCC Commissioners; Head of the Federal Communications Commission International Bureau, Regina Keeney; Deborah Latham, Chief, Cable Services Bureau

CC: J1.J1 (RKEENEY) , A7.A7 (MPOWELL, SNESS, WKENNARD) , FCCMA...

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