



CONNECTING HOMETOWN AMERICA

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March 12, 2015

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication of the American Cable Association; *Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming*, MB Docket No. 14-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 10 and 11, 2015, the undersigned, on behalf of the American Cable Association (“ACA”), spoke via telephone, respectively, with Valerie Galasso, Policy Advisor, Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel and Robin Colwell, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor, Media, Office of Commissioner O’Rielly to discuss issues to be addressed in the Commission’s forthcoming 16th Annual Video Competition Report.¹ During the meeting, the undersigned noted, consistent with ACA’s comments in this proceeding,² that in order for the Commission to discharge its duty to report to Congress on the “status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming,”³ it is essential that the Report note the critical role played by video programming buying groups in lowering video programming costs for small and medium-sized cable operators;⁴ the increasing trend toward vertical integration between cable operators and video programming vendors;⁵ and the continued shuttering of smaller cable systems.⁶

¹ *Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming*, Notice of Inquiry, MB Docket No. 14-16, FCC 14-8 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

² See *Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming*, Comments of the American Cable Association, MB Docket No. 14-16, (filed Mar. 21, 2014) (“ACA Comments”).

³ See 47 U.S.C. § 548(g).

⁴ ACA Comments at 1-4.

⁵ *Id.* at 4-6.

⁶ *Id.* at 6-8.

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If you have any questions, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed electronically with the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross J. Lieberman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Ross J. Lieberman

cc (via email): Valerie Galasso
Robin Colwell