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Currently, we watch RFD-TV on DirectTV and are concerned about Verizon's action with independent programmers that might reflecting a trend with satellite and other carriers.

We are a small family farm in San Martin, California. Daily we are reminded of the disconnect between the general public and the agricultural industry. Located just south of Silicon Valley, we raise and sell heritage breed chickens and ducks, and sell their eggs under an Egg Handler's Permit. We also raise registered Nubian dairy goats selling young goats. We use the goat milk to produce goat milk soaps and lotions that we sell. In addition, we keep bees for their pollination, honey, and wax. We use the bee's wax in creams and balms that we sell. Honey is used in some of the goat milk soaps that we sell. In addition we sell just the wax and jarred honey, pollination the community gets as a free service. We do all this and more, yet are not looked as a farm by most of our customers. Silicon Valley has forgotten where its food and agricultural commodities come from, even though we are just down the road.

As former park rangers, my wife and I witnessed many hikers and campers from the city have their outings go wrong from not knowing basic outdoor skills. Some outings were ruined at the start just by attempting to set up tent. Others ended badly with injuries, or more tragically death. After seeing all this during our ranger careers and being adult volunteer 4-H Leaders we created a project we titled "Outdoor Skills." In this project we talked about basic outdoor principles, skills, and ethics that enhanced the youths' and their family's time in the outdoors. We had the 4-Hers show us, and their families' these principles, skills, and ethics during field trips, one day outings, and week end camping trips. Many families had not been outdoors since childhood or had NEVER been in the great outdoors.

We are a small farm just down the road from Silicon Valley. We reflect a dichotomy between agriculture/outdoor life and urban life. We educate and inform our customers and community about what agriculture is and what it provides. We educate and share with 4-hers, their families, and our community responsible ways to enjoy the outdoors. We can only reach so many in our community, but RFD-TV can reach our entire nation. That is why the loss of independent programmers like RFD-TV is not just the loss of a programmer, but the loss of a vital link between agriculture/outdoor life and urban life. Independent programmers provide information that many big urban programmers do not provide because it might not be what the audience wants. Their audience is the same audience wanting to know more about agriculture/outdoor life, but have limited means of accessing that information. Please keep the valuable link available to the audience, our nation, and my community. Please help us keep independent programmers, like RFD-TV, easily accessible on satellite and other carriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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