CAPITOL OFFICE
1226 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6235
FAX: (202) 225-2202

DISTRICT OFFICE
350 SOUTH BIXEL STREET, SUITE 120
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017
PHONE: (213) 481-1425
FAX: (213) 481-1427

BECERRA.HOUSE.GOV

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

XAVIER BECERRA
34TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

March 11, 2016

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Via Email

Re: Letter of Inquiry Regarding Univision and AT&T U-verse Negotiations

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to express my growing concern regarding the ongoing retransmission consent dispute between Univision and AT&T U-verse which has resulted in a blackout of Univision for over 5 million American consumers, millions of whom are in California and approximately 300,000 of whom are in Los Angeles.

Latino and Spanish-language consumers comprise a significant part of the Los Angeles and U.S. population and are expected to grow even more over the next two decades. Ensuring that they are well-informed and have access to diverse media across radio, television, wire, satellite and cable is very much in the public interest.

As the representative of an incredibly diverse district that relies heavily on trusted media providers, I wanted to inquire as to whether you are aware of this ongoing retransmission consent dispute and whether the FCC has any plans to involve itself in this dispute, or these types of disputes moving forward, so as to ascertain their impact on American consumers.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Xavier Becerra

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Becerra:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern regarding the retransmission consent dispute between AT&T U-Verse and Univision.

As you are probably aware, the Univision signal was restored in advance of the Presidential Debate that Univision sponsored on March 9, 2016. The parties continue to negotiate and Univision's signal remains on AT&T systems under rolling extensions. Commission staff have been closely monitoring this situation since the beginning and will continue to do so.

As you may know that the Commission recently initiated a rulemaking to review the so-called "totality of the circumstances test" for good faith negotiations over retransmission of broadcast TV signals. Specifically, in September 2015 the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that undertook a robust examination of practices used by parties in retransmission consent negotiations. The goal of the proposed rules is to ensure that these negotiations are conducted fairly and in a way that protects consumers. Comments and reply comments were due on December 1, 2015 and January 14, 2016, respectively, and Commission staff is currently reviewing the record. Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler