

M. B. Docket 10-71

Dear FCC,

Recently Forum Communications (who owns WDAY-TV the ABC affiliate in Fargo, North Dakota and two other markets) and DIRECTV have reach an impasse and unfortunately chosed to blackout DIRECTV subscribers in three markets which made Fargo Basketball Viewers missing this years NBA Finals on ABC (which is a Marquee Event) and unfortunately by law, they can't provide an alternate ABC station thanks to the flawed network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules which was created decades ago. The Retransmission Consent Blackouts by Broadcasters has to stop now and broadcasters should be ashamed. It's time for the FCC to reform this mess and end this Pay-TV Pandemic which became more frequent since 2010. The network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules needs to be eliminated immediately because that law is flawed and a thing of the television past. It's not a free market when the exclusivity rules are still in the FCC rulebooks, sorry NAB you can have a fit all you want, we're tired of not having freedom of choices when it comes to Cable and Satellite TV. The exclusivity rules are 100% Un-American and don't reflect today's market place. It's ideal to eliminate the dreadful exclusivity rules because of the satellite market modification rules and petitions to the FCC are now in effect and this is the 21st century, not the 1960s, and the National Association of Broadcasters better quit living in the television past and TV viewers who can't get a decent over-the-air digital TV signal at their location and forced to subscribe to locals on Cable and Satellite TV deserves better than this. Having those exclusivity rules is not common sense of today's TV marketplace, sorry Gordon Smith and Dennis Wharton. The 2010s haven't been very kind to the Pay-TV Industry because of bills getting expensive, cord cutters, and of course blackouts by broadcasters because they want more money thanks to the controversial flawed rules from almost 25 years ago which doesn't make any sense at all... Retransmission Consent! I still live in Greenwood County, South Carolina (which is part of the split state TV market or DMA of Greenville, SC/Spartanburg, SC/Asheville, NC) and the TV stations I get from that market on DIRECTV does tell irrelevant North Carolina and Georgia out-of-state local news besides in-state ones from South Carolina. News from North Carolina and Georgia doesn't concern us, we prefer to watch news from South Carolina since Localism is still important to the state and community we live in. Last week, I've talked to my local county council about the STELAR Market Modification Petition request since subscribers unfortunately can't file petitions directly with the FCC, only out-of-market in-state TV stations, satellite carriers, and county council. I've mentioned to the county council that the TV stations we get from the Greenville, SC/Spartanburg, SC/Asheville, NC area tells irrelevant North Carolina and Georgia out-of-state local news besides in-state South Carolina ones, but the out-of-market in-state TV stations from Columbia, SC and Charleston, SC TV markets tells 100% relevant in-state South Carolina news. That's why I've asked my county council to file a petition with the FCC, and mentioned the contact info to the TV stations in Columbia, SC and Charleston, SC markets plus DIRECTV's contact info and I've started to e-mail the entire information to my county council clerk, then I called her back and she got the e-mail and will sent it to the county council. Why the network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules are unwanted in today's TV marketplace? It ruins the experience of watching out-of-market TV stations like on DIRECTV if someone gets in-state out-of-market TV stations of ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX added to their line-up if the STELAR Market Modification Petition is granted and people don't want to see a blank screen 90% of the time, they want to see it in its 100% entirety just like they watch out-of-market TV stations if they're lucky enough to pick it up over-the-air with an outdoor TV antenna. The exclusivity rules is bad for business. Last year, Tom Wheeler planed to eliminate those rules just like the Sports Blackout rules recently, but the NAB and others interfered. TV viewers who subscribe to cable and satellite deserved better, we want freedom of choice and get in-state out-of-market TV stations like on DIRECTV for example in its 100% entirety without those dreadful program blackouts. That's common sense!

What's not common sense? Retransmission Consent where broadcasters required Pay-TV providers to give them permission to carry it on Cable and Satellite with a fee.

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Shaking my head on this issue.

Please eliminate the network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules. And reform Retransmission Consent too? Thanks.

Spencer Karter
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