

October 22, 1998

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
1919 M Street NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554
Attn: /RM-9335

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Re: Satellite Home Viewer's Act

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my complaint regarding the Satellite Home Viewer's Act. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I received from WDRB/CBS involved in the current suit being considered in federal court.

I was a happy satellite consumer until I received notification from my provider Direct TV, that two of the stations I receive might no longer be provided. (CBS and FOX)

It is my understanding from the FCC recording regarding the above act that the act was initiated to protect against retransmission of certain network programming by satellite providers unless the household could not receive the transmission by a conventional outside antennae.

As you can certainly see from the letter I have enclosed, WDRB states that satellite can only be used if the signal cannot be received by antennae or via cable hookups. I do not recall the FCC recording even mentioning cable, let alone stating that if a household could receive the CBS transmission by either antennae or by cable then satellite reception was disallowed.

I do not choose to subscribe to cable, and will never subscribe to cable, although it is available. Cable's most "basic" package, in my area, has many programs I do not want, and thus is more expensive than my current satellite package.

Also, while I totally oppose the requirement, I did, as required by the Satellite Home Viewer's Act, attempt to receive all of my local programming with a conventional outside antennae and also a conventional inside antennae.

Both of these methods provided totally unacceptable reception with non clarity, snow, static, and picture fade in and out. I therefore subscribed to my satellite carrier for this programming.

The point I am making is that I believe consumers have the right to choose ANY provider they want for TV programming, and ALL TV programming should be available for all providers to offer.

After all, the stations mentioned in the FCC recording are all geographically located in another state. Therefore, these transmissions I now receive are all rebroadcast from some satellite somewhere.

No one should be able to dictate WHO, or HOW or at what PRICE any company provides ANY "luxury service".

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When it comes to "luxury" items or services that are non essential and non detrimental to life, adult consumers deserve the right to make any choice they want.

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The Satellite Home Viewer's Act should have never been passed. If cable companies are allowed to lobby for legislation to prohibit that choice then we are only one step away from cable monopolies.

I know here in Louisville, there is only one cable company. The prices continue to go up and up and people are stuck. Cable companies have no right to attempt to be the sole providers of any TV programming.

I think I speak for many when I say that I want my satellite companies to continue being a viable alternative to cable and/or antennae reception with NO restrictions.

Sincerely,



Margaret I Pullem
9207 Sue Helen Dr.
Louisville, Kentucky 40299

enclosure

cc: Senator Wendell H. Ford
Senator Mitch McConnell
Congressman Anne Northup

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October 15, 1998

Margaret I. Pullem
9207 Sue Helen Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40299

Dear Mr. Pullem:

Please let us try to shed some light as to what is happening with the decision that has led to your satellite provider's intention to turn off your CBS signal.

There is a 10 year-old federal law, the Satellite Home Viewer's ACT, which was designed to protect your local television station; which would make certain it was the sole provider of the CBS network signal in your area, along with local news and information. There were only limited exceptions, including homes that could not receive, with an outdoor antenna or via cable hookups, the local stations. Your satellite provider should have made you aware of that law before you bought your system.

The fact is, thousands of systems were sold without those caveats. Recently, the law cracked down and people's systems are being turned off if they are not in compliance.

We are sorry you may be disadvantaged. To help us determine whether you may qualify for a waiver, and thus continue to receive your satellite feed for CBS programming, please submit the information requested on the enclosed Waiver Application Information form.

We will be in touch with you.

Sincerely,



Fred Steurer, Chief Engineer

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