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98-201

NEBRASKA TELEVISION NETWORK

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DEC 14 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard,

The proposed "Rule Making" regarding the Satellite Home Viewer Act is of critical importance to our stations and the viewers of Central and Western Nebraska. Our news operations are the primary source of news and weather information for the large majority of the population of out-state Nebraska. We also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of public service and community information to our viewers annually. Our stations are a primary source of all types of local information for our viewers.

We finance these services by the sale of commercial announcements to local, regional and national advertisers. It is not an economic model which assures our financial success.

The piracy of network signals and sale to our potential viewers by DBS providers is a threat to our ability to continue with our news and local community efforts. The proposed rule changes have the potential to eliminate the "localism" in local television in Nebraska.

You have expressed concern that the consolidation in radio station ownership is a threat to "local" radio. Anything less than vigorous enforcement of the current SHVA rules will have a far greater impact on local television's ability provide free news and information service to our viewers.

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NEBRASKA'S 24-HOUR NETWORK

MAIN OFFICES & STUDIOS: P.O. BOX 220, KEARNEY, NE 68848 (308) 743-2494 FAX (308) 740-2644
GRAND ISLAND OFFICES: P.O. BOX 380, DONIPHAN, NE 68832 (308) 384-1300 FAX (308) 381-6586
LINCOLN OFFICES: 707 N. 48TH ST., STE B, LINCOLN, NE 68504 (402) 466-1300 FAX (402) 466-1311



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December 3, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: EchoStar and NRTC Petitions,
FCC Docket No. 98-201 (RM 9335 and RM 9345)

Dear Commissioner Kennard,

- I am writing to comment on the proposal to raise the "Grade B" standards in regard to determining which homes are allowed to receive their network signals from distant sources.

I can regurgitate all the phrases the NAB provides regarding the FCC's "legal authority" to raise these standards. But that's not for me to decide or even debate. What does concern me is the competitive environment that is created with this proposal.

What your proposal does is allow the major players to enter my very small market and dilute the value of this property. This is a real and substantial problem. My advertisers understand that now, another 15-20% of my market/their market will be able to receive network programming from a distant source. Mr. Kennard, what do you think that does to the value of my signal? THIS HURTS SMALL MARKET STATIONS! We can't afford transponder time 24 hours a day like our distant competitors.

If you really want to craft legislation that will aid Americans, suggest that satellite providers make local signals available to our zip codes. It's obvious these signals are individually addressable. Rather than reduce a small market station's ability to compete, draft a proposal that levels the playing field. Require satellite providers carry local, free TV in our FCC determined DMA's.

The transition to digital will tax many small markets to their financial limit. This new Grade B proposal compounds this financial burden. By reducing our revenue potential through distant competition, our ability to inform our viewers through local news, weather and sports is also weakened. You not only hurt a local TV station but you effectively hurt the local viewer as well. Please consider whom this proposal benefits before moving forward. Viewers, who have legitimate reception concerns, can and do receive waivers. Don't artificially provide a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

I appreciate you taking the opportunity to hear my thoughts on this issue.

Sincerely,

John J. Ganahl
General Manager
KXLT-TV
Rochester MN

Cc: Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael E. Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
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December 1, 1998

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98-201

Mr. Peter Bannister
General Manager
KTNV-TV
3355 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

IN RE: YOUR RESPONSE OF NOVEMBER 10, 1998

I am somewhat confused and disappointed by your response of November 10, 1998, to my letter to you of October 5, 1998, requesting a waiver from your station to allow me to get the ABC Network from Direct TV. When reading your response, I sensed that you either did not read my letter to you, or, that you totally misinterpreted my comments.

Your response was directed at explaining the "law" to me and making several false statements about Direct TV. Please allow me, once again, to put forth the facts.

I obtained Direct TV at my former address (1828 Indian Bend Drive), four (4) years ago. When I could not get acceptable reception from Channel 13, I was provided the ABC Network from Direct TV. Approximately two (2) months ago I moved (10 homes west of my 1828 address). While relocating my Direct TV service, I found I could still not receive adequate reception from the ABC Network. I called Direct TV, explained that the reception was no better at the new address, and asked them to re-instate their service. Direct TV was very up front with me, they not only explained the "law" in great detail, but went further and sent me a letter outlining steps that I should take and any recourse I would have.

Mr. Bannister, I am not annoyed at being sold a service Direct TV can't deliver. I am very happy with my service from them and I understood fully what I was purchasing at the time. I am, however, annoyed by not receiving an acceptable signal from KTNV-TV and getting lip-service when I try to remedy that situation. Candidly, I would prefer to receive a local signal. However, try as I may, it does not seem possible.

To date, I have had no problems with any other local channel. However, the reception from KTNV-TV is blurry, double imaged and very difficult to attempt to view for even a short period of time. In short, it is not an acceptable picture. We have tried various remedies, but with no success. Several Television repairmen have told me they have done all they can do.

Mr. Bannister, all I want is to see the ABC Network. My first choice is to receive it locally. However, if you cannot or will not provide acceptable reception, please allow me to get it elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you very soon, as there are many special programs coming up that I want to view. Please let me know when I can receive acceptable service.

Sincerely,

Keith W. Bassett

cc: William E. Kennard
Susan Ness
Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth
Michael K. Powell
Gloria Tristani

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