

January 14, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
CS Docket #98-201
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

JAN 19 1999

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter addresses two issues of the utmost importance to us. The first issue is that of eligibility to receive network signals via satellite as opposed to receiving same via cable.

The second, and more important, issue concerns long distance telephone charges for Internet access.

We would like to make it clear that we are not receiving network signals by way of our satellite. Numerous letters from station managers, refusing our request for waivers, tell us our anger should be directed toward satellite providers who are breaking the law by sending us illegal network signals. Be assured, we are not, nor have we ever received illegal signals from the many satellite providers to which we have subscribed, and at the beginning of our quest we were not angry. Certainly, our anger is never directed toward the satellite companies; that would be ridiculous. However, anger and frustration are difficult to control when special interests groups are allowed persuade lawmakers to restrict and regulate our private lives.

Trent Lott answered our letter to him thus: "...this debate is about whether network shows should be received via satellite or through a conventional antenna from your local television affiliate..."

We would like to make our position clear. We object to being forced to subscribe to cable television (paying more/receiving less), in order to receive good television reception. Our satellite company provides better service, is less expensive and more flexible. We also object to being expected to watch substandard picture quality based on tests performed by someone other than ourselves, somewhere other than our home, and control over our lives being taken away from us little by little.

We used a TV antenna to watch network programs until a tree fell on it. Picture quality was often not good, poor most of the time and never as clear as our satellite reception and the antenna had to be adjusted manually when the wind or rain changed its position.

Satellite reception is better and more reliable. We would like to receive network feeds via satellite, but have been informed we are ineligible to receive these signals as we live in a "red zone", and that in order to receive network programs on this dish, we must be granted waiver from the local network affiliates.

We have requested waiver from local network affiliates, two in Biloxi and three in New Orleans. In order to be granted waiver, we must have an engineer come into our home, measure our antenna signal and prove to the local network affiliates that our picture quality is poor enough to warrant a waiver to receive network signals via satellite. This sounds preposterous to my friends, neighbors, family, and of course, to us. Certainly you agree.

After the last hurricane, we considered subscribing to cable in order to receive the networks, but the cable company in our area will not provide this basic package. They suggested we drop our satellite provider (dig up the dish, give back the receiver, forfeit our deposit) and subscribe to cable. The cable company's offers do not rival those of our satellite provider, and they are the only cable company in town; we have none other from which to choose. We are offended that the cable company would even make this suggestion, especially when we have much better service, program packages and prices with the satellite company.

This incident has strengthened our resolve to make a statement and to exercise our freedoms by not doing business with the cable company, and to ask for your aid in this matter.

Our opinion on is that we would have a better America if we did not allow greed for power and money to cloud our good judgement; these things play too big a part in our lives, as it is.

We understand that the local stations want us to watch their commercials, and we understand the Golden Rule in America (he who has the gold makes the rules). However, we mute commercials during programs, as they annoy us beyond words. We refuse to be subjected to this hideous form of salesmanship. We should not be forced to subscribe to cable in order to receive local network signals; we should not be forced to hire an engineer to validate our opinion of television picture quality. We should not be forced to watch substandard quality picture when perfect picture quality is available. We are, after all, Americans.

My wife and I are retired professionals; in our professional lives observed all the rules, restrictions, regulations, laws, policies and procedures; so much so, we sometimes feel they were tattooed on our brains. The government is allowing business to come into our homes, into our private lives, and restrict our freedoms. Where will this greed lead us, and when will it end?

Now, our Internet access may also be held hostage by the "powers-that-be"; we hear we may soon have to pay long distance rates for access to the Internet. Is this true? Please say it is not so. I would gladly give up television altogether in order to maintain inexpensive Internet access (since getting our computer, we watch less television and listen to more radio.)

Must we do battle to maintain our television rights? Must we fight in order to maintain our connection to the world? Must we fear losing Internet access, as we lost satellite television? The world has been opened to us, now we are in danger of being shut out, should these things be priced out of our budget.

Please consider this request and keep in mind that many of us do not have access to these valuable forms of communication and learning tools because of restrictions, family situations, or one of a hundred reasons all related to the money factor.

This, like all wars, is a battle between forces for money and power – our money and power over our lives. You are in a position to help us maintain our freedoms and promote fair competition in the workplace. I beseech you to do so.

Thank you for considering our request. Please let us know what we can do to maintain our freedoms and freedom for the people of the United States.

Sincerely,

John W. and Jean Rogers Bearden
122 Pirate Avenue
Long Beach, MS 39560
(228) 863-7919

January 14, 1998 JAN 19 1000

FCC BUREAU ROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission
CS Docket #98-201
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Gentlemen:

In regards to the FCC making consumers ineligible to subscribe to CBS and FOX networks that have satellite programming.

I cannot receive an acceptable picture from local networks, because of hills, trees, and high power lines, and also by living in a valley.

I am asking you to implement a fair eligibility system that promotes full access to network programming, when consumers cannot consistently receive a quality picture from local network stations, we should be eligible for satellite delivered network programming.

I urge you to promote competition in the communications marketplace when consumers receive poor quality pictures from our local network stations, cable television shouldn't be their only recourse, which is not accessible in my location. Individuals with poor quality reception should be able to watch their favorite network television shows on satellite, and not be forced to rely on cable which I cannot receive.

I urge you to oppose the televisions networks' proposal to determine subscriber eligibility. Under the networks' proposal, subscribers would not be eligible for satellite service even in those areas where only half the homes are predicted to get a signal from the local station supposedly sufficient to produce acceptable reception. This is unfair and leaves too many people with poor reception without access to satellite network service and cannot receive cable.

Sincerely,
Donald W. Harned
Donald W. Harned
RR 1, Box 173
Albright, WV. 26519

C: Primetime 24

RECEIVED
JAN 19 1999
FCC MAIL ROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

HC 67 Box 68B
Mathias, WV 26812
January 4, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
CS Docket #98-201
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

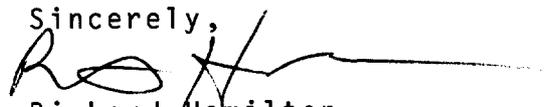
It has recently been brought to our attention that in the near future the FCC may require only local tv stations to provide certain channels.

We ask that this rule NOT be implemented as we do not receive any local CBS, NBC, or FOX. We are located in a mountaineous region and do not get these stations. We do receive an ABC station (Harrisonburg, VA) that we watch for local news and some programming. The ABC station does not always come in clearly.

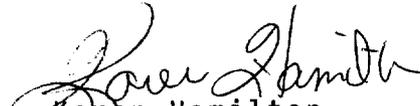
We ask that a fair eligilbilty system that promotes full access to network programming be implemented. Competition in the communications marketplace should be promoted. Please, oppose the television networks' proposal to determine subscriber eligibility, as we feel a lot of people will be without any service or will receive poor quality reception.

Please give our concerns some consideration. Would you like to receive only one network? Would you like someone who lives hundreds of miles away to decide that you have to watch their network? (Especially when you can't even receive it in your particular location.)

Sincerely,



Richard Hamilton



Karen Hamilton