

Re: CS Docket No. 98-201

Denial of reconsideration for transmission of broadcast television over Direct Satellite systems.

I disagree with your decision to deny this reconsideration. Due to my proximity to San Antonio, I have been told that I am pretty much guaranteed to be able to receive grade "B" transmissions. I do not have an external antenna, nor do I wish to install one. I receive very poor reception within my home utilizing rabbit ears for reception. When you (the FCC) made the decision several years ago requiring the cable companies to pay the broadcast networks for intercepting their signals you overstepped your powers. The cable companies were doing the networks a favor by receiving their POOR signals, cleaning them up, boosting the signals and retransmitting them to their cable subscribers. This placed the cable companies in a position where they could now justify receiving more profit by claiming that any service they have to purchase can now be sold at a profit. When that decision was made, cable bills increased an average of 20% in my location. Cable companies have been gouging the American public for years and every piece of legislation you propose gives them more loopholes to earn a profit. Premium Satellite channels (HBO, Showtime, etc.) offer their broadcasts in packages (i.e.: 3 HBOs & 3 Cinemax for \$15). Cable television companies purchase these channels in this package method then sell them to consumers for \$15 per channel instead of maybe \$17.50 for the whole package. This is highway robbery! How much kickback do FCC officials get from the cable executives? I purchased an Echostar direct broadcast satellite receiver when they first arrived on the market. I have enjoyed crystal clear reception from that day three years ago and I should not have to settle for anything less. Cable is unavailable where I live and putting up an antenna system for reception that would not even be close to noise-free is too cost prohibitive. I am existing on a military budget and would nearly be bankrupted in order to spend the four or five hundred dollars necessary to purchase and install a broadcast television reception system. You really need to consider the everyday citizen to which you are supposed to be serving. Instead you are listening to the broadcasters and the cable executives who pad the pockets of those who were elected (these are the same people who hired you into your jobs). You should be serving the general populace of the United States of America, if you are not then there is no reason for you to exist. I want my network feeds to come through the same medium that I receive the rest of my television channels. I do not see what id the hard part. Follow the same guidelines that you followed when requiring the cable companies to pay the broadcasters. Require the satellite services to pay the networks for the privilege (sic) of sending their signals to those of us who do not like ghosts, snow, interference, etc. on our main entertainment device. I have begun a program where I will write each month to the major advertisers on broadcast television and inform them that the current FCC regulations do not allow me to view their advertisements in a satisfcatory manner. Perhaps after you begin receiving complaints from the Fortune 500 companies who do "BUY" the politicians that allow you to keep your job, you will realize your mistake and overturn this ruling.

John M Brown