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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 00-2
Notice of Ex Parte Meeting

Dear Ms. Salas:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, EchoStar Satellite Corporation ("EchoStar") submits this letter to report a May 17, 2001 meeting between EchoStar representatives and the following members of the Cable Services Bureau staff: Eloise Gore, William Johnson, Deborah Klein, Ronald Parver, and John Wong. Also in attendance were representatives of the National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, National Football League, and Office of the Commissioner of Baseball (collectively the "Sports Leagues").

At the request of Cable Services Bureau staff, Mr. Povenmire, EchoStar's Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, described how EchoStar's Conditional Access system is used to implement programming blackout requests. Mr. Povenmire explained that the system is currently near its maximum capacity to implement sports blackouts due to the current demands of the Sports Leagues, and that compliance with the Commission's new network sports blackout rule may require the replacement of the entire Conditional Access system. EchoStar representatives expressed the view that the additional strains on, or need to replace, this \$100 million dollar plus system significantly exceeded any potential benefit to rights holders from the network sports blackout rule, as this blackout requirement extends only to households eligible to receive distant network signals.

EchoStar representatives also disagreed with the Sports Leagues' misguided effort to blame EchoStar for the current burdens on its conditional access capacity. EchoStar pointed

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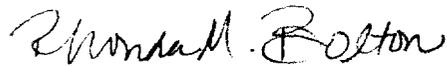
out that, in fact, the source of the problem is primarily the complexity of the Leagues' current demands, which results from the lack of coordination among the Leagues in their demands for blackout protection zones.

Also discussed at the meeting was the Sports Leagues' counter-proposal to the 48-hour notice rule adopted by the Commission. As EchoStar understands the proposal, the Sports Leagues offer to provide a "master" blackout notice together with a list of all potentially affected zip codes at least 15 days prior to the start of the regular season, in lieu of the 48-hour notice requirement. EchoStar agreed to take this proposal under advisement.

EchoStar also agreed, at the request of Ms. Gore, to provide information regarding the number of sports blackout deletion notices it has received. EchoStar is compiling this information and will provide it to Ms. Gore under separate cover.

An original and one copy of this Ex Parte Notice are provided to your office as required by Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda M. Bolton

cc: Eloise Gore, Cable Services Bureau
William Johnson, Cable Services Bureau
Deborah Klein, Cable Services Bureau
Ronald Parver, Cable Services Bureau
John Wong, Cable Services Bureau
Philip R. Hochberg, Counsel for National Basketball Association and National Hockey League
Robert A. Garrett, Counsel for Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
Neil K. Roman, Counsel for National Football League
James H. Barker, Counsel for DIRECTV, Inc.