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July 1, 2005

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Notification*
CS Docket Nos. 00-96, 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this is to inform you that, on June 30, 2005, Stacy Fuller and undersigned counsel on behalf of The DIRECTV Group, Inc. ("DIRECTV"), met with Catherine Bohigian, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Martin, and Heather Dickson, attorney advisor in the Media Bureau, to discuss the enclosed materials. In particular, the discussion focused on the differences between satellite and cable delivery of digital broadcast signals and the ways in which the rules applicable to such carriage could have a very different effect on Direct Broadcast Satellite operators than they do on cable operators because of their differing technologies. We stressed that, if the rules are not properly crafted, DBS operators will be able to provide local-into-local service in many fewer markets. We also discussed the fact that, because many retransmission consent agreements are effective for more than three years, an "either/or" approach to carriage elections would unfairly alter the market-driven agreements carefully struck between broadcasters and satellite operators.

Sincerely yours,

|s|

William M. Wiltshire

Enclosures

cc: Catherine Bohigian
Heather Dickson