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July 7, 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, Stacy Fuller and undersigned counsel on behalf of The DIRECTV Group, Inc. ("DIRECTV"), met with (1) Lauren "Pete" Belvin, Acting Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy, on July 6, 2005, and (2) Commissioner Abernathy and Ms. Belvin on July 7, 2005, 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. In addition, we discussed potential issues relating to lack of notice under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sincerely yours,

|s\

William M. Wiltshire

Enclosures

cc: Lauren "Pete" Belvin