

To the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission:

Please accept the following comments with respect to cable digital must carry.

In reviewing the proceeding, I feel that two areas need to be part of the overall discussion. First, with digital must carry the opportunity to set a hard date for analog transmitter turn off can be determined. Having cable companies carry digital signals it will allow the consumer a better opportunity to be introduced to the technology. In turn which will drive sales of HDTV monitors thus getting near enough to the point where analog monitors will not be wanted by the consumer.

Next, the cost of running two transmitters is hurting operating margins. I work for a public television station with 5 digital and 5 analog transmitters. The expense of keeping 10 signals on the air cuts into our bottom line. If we were able to transmit only on digital we would save hundreds of thousands of dollars in power and other costs.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Please be advised that my comments may not reflect the position of Maine Public Broadcasting Network

Sincerely,

Tristan Richards
Past Chair
Maine Association of Broadcasters