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April 23, 2007

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The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W., Room 8-B201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

With access to content and programming becoming more difficult and expensive to obtain for consumers, the FCC needs to work on updating the current must-carry/transmission consent rules. Specifically, I would request that you act on the following proceeding: In the Matter of the American Cable Association Petition for Rulemaking to Amend 47 C.F.R. §§ 76.64, 76.93, and 76.103, Retransmission Consent, Non-Duplication, and Syndicated Exclusivity, RM-11203, Report No. 2696, Public Notice (rel. March 17, 2005).

Under the current rules, broadcasters face no price constraints on their carriage demands imposed on small video operators. In addition to unjustified price increases, broadcasters are imposing unreasonable tying/bundling requirements, which impose significant capacity burdens on smaller systems. The current rules prevent small operators from pursuing low-cost alternatives, such as negotiating and importing a commercial broadcast television station signal from a neighboring DMA, pool bargaining and arbitration. The current rules are causing significantly higher costs for rural providers and higher rates for rural consumers. Small, rural video operators need regulatory relief so that they can continue to provide video services to their customers at reasonable rates.

At a minimum, I urge you to act on the above Petition for Rulemaking so that small, rural video operators can stay in business, remain competitive and provide competitive services to my rural constituents.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on a resolution to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

  
Randy Houdek  
General Manager

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