



**THE COUNCIL  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS  
MARION COUNTY**

07-42

**DANE MAHERN**  
Councillor, District 19  
Chairman, Metropolitan Development Committee

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Nov.18,2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room:8-B201  
Washington DC, 20554

RE: (MB Docket 07-42)

Dear Chairman Martin:

I understand that the FCC's rulemaking proceeding (MB Docket 07-42) is now allowing Public Comment regarding large cable companies that may be promoting channels they own over independent programming. I represent Council District 19 which includes the new football stadium being built in downtown Indianapolis which will be the new home of the Indianapolis Colts. While the vast majority of the cost of the new stadium is tax dollars cable companies appear to want to limit the number of people in Indiana who can watch the NFL Football if it is carried on the NFL Network.

I request that the FCC change its rules so that disputes such as those involving the NFL Network and other independent and diverse channels be sent to an arbitrator who would have the authority to institute actions on behalf of the nation's cable consumers.

The refusal of large cable companies to provide the programming demanded by consumers is of great concerns to the people I represent. I am concerned that if the FCC does not act at this time we will have a number of states including Indiana that will want to address these problem at the state level. While I would encourage state action if no action is taken on the federal level I would prefer that these problems be addressed at the Federal level. I believe having access to a variety of programming is not something unique to downtown Indianapolis but would apply across this great nation

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to comment on the topic which effects the people of District 19.

Sincerely,

Dane Mahern

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