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March 18, 2008

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: *CS Docket Nos. 98-120 and 00-96, MB Docket No. 07-91*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that yesterday, Stacy Fuller on behalf of DIRECTV, Inc. responded to a telephone inquiry from Cristina Pauzé, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell, as to DIRECTV's views on adoption of a "viewability" requirement that would require DBS operators to carry both the standard definition and high definition version of each broadcaster's signal. Ms. Fuller noted that such a requirement would be tantamount to a dual carriage obligation, which would be of questionable constitutionality and have the practical effect of limiting the number of local markets DIRECTV can serve. As discussed earlier in this proceeding, satellite providers operate using limited spectral resources, and any mandate to carry one type of programming necessarily decreases DIRECTV's ability to carry other programming.

Given the constitutional implications of a viewability requirement, the burden it would impose on satellite carriers, and the lack of input in the existing record, the Commission would be well served by either initiating a further notice to explore this issue further or allowing Congress to determine the contours of the statutory authority for local signal carriage in the process of reauthorizing the Satellite Home Viewer Expansion and Reauthorization Act next year.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

William M. Wiltshire
Michael D. Nilsson
Counsel for DIRECTV, Inc.

HARRIS, WILTSHIRE & GRANNIS LLP

Marlene H. Dortch

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cc: Cristina Pauzé
Catherine Bohigian
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Rudy Brioché
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