



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dr. J. Michel Guité, President and CEO

2008 APR 21

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Filed

APR 21 2008

FCC Mail Room

April 17, 2008

Dear Chairman Martin,

04-207

After today reading a public letter sent to you by a cable industry spokesperson opposed to *a la carte* programming, I hope you will permit me to state an opposite view.

My personal opinion is that cable and satellite mandatory 'packages' comprise a form of extortion no different to McDonalds – were it permitted to control every hamburger in America – compelling every customer to buy \$60 of triple-deckers, with giant fries, super-sized milk shakes, and apple pies with every order. As outrageous would be a cartel of hot dog vendors, at every ball park in America, compelling every man, woman, and child to eat triple dogs with sauerkraut, extra cheese, dollops of beans, and 24 ounces of beer during every game.

As a small rural telephone company preparing to compete against multi-billion dollar cable and satellite giants who ram these 10,000 caloric menus down customers' throats every day, I am concerned that most video program acquisition contracts make it impossible for a new entrant to challenge this cartel by, for example, offering CNN for \$2 to a Vermont neighbor who is now compelled to pay \$60 for 200 channels he doesn't want.

In the event you, or any other Commissioner, would like to visit Vermont we would be honored to be one of your hosts.

Yours truly,

cc. Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Bernie Sanders
Representative Peter Welch

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

