

RE: Stop Broadcasters and Programmers from Abusing Independent Operators and their Customers!

Le Caples

356 CR 391

Jonesboro, AR 72401-0579

January 18, 2009

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

I urge the Commission to carefully study the American Cable Association's (ACA) proposal in the wholesale programming rulemaking (MB Docket No. 07-198) so that viewers receive superior television service. Cable viewers have no choice in negotiations between cable operators, broadcasters and programmers but to accept their unreasonable demands that prevent cable viewers from receiving worthwhile programming.

Broadcasters and programmers provide the most worthless programming I've seen in fifty years of television viewing. Prices, terms, and conditions are unreasonable and require viewers to pay for special boxes to receive HD programming (even with the new TV's). Customers do not want all these channels and cannot afford them. High per subscriber fees in the same market may be the culprit. These costs are passed along to viewers. Broadcasters and programmers can pull their channels from cable systems when their demands are not accepted, and refuse to return them until the operator concedes. Example: the History channel is moved to a higher tier of programming causing the viewer to pay more. The History channel is a valuable source of education and should be available to the poorest citizens at the lowest cost.

Apparently, the ACA presented a proposal to the FCC that would prohibit broadcasters and programmers from engaging in these sorts of abusive practices. The ACA plan would make it easier for cable operators to

provide their viewers with superior television service, including better value and more independent programming.

I urge you to review the quality of programming available, the needless duplication of the same programming, and the high cost to the viewing public in today's cable television world.

Many families are seriously considering canceling all cable TV service. Many young couples have never signed up for cable TV. Most of us are disgusted with the news media and their constant barrage of opinion on supposedly news and entertainment programs. We are also disgusted with the producers of dramas and comedies who constantly try to influence our thinking and thus our actions.

Sincerely,

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