

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2009

2079

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are writing on behalf of the thousands of Alabama residents who may be directly impacted by the outcome of the retransmission consent negotiations between Mediacom and Sinclair. The current agreement between these parties is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009, and a shutdown appears a possible outcome.

In 2007, these same companies failed to reach a related compromise, resulting in nearly 70,000 Mediacom customers in Alabama losing access to Sinclair's Mobile-Pensacola based ABC station, WEAR, and MyNTV station, WFGX. During the four week impasse, our constituents were unable to view local news and weather reports, many of their favorite network programs, and college and professional sporting events.

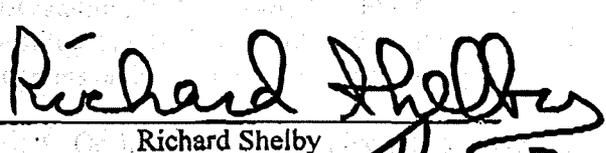
On January 7th, the University of Alabama is scheduled to play in the BCS National Championship Game against the University of Texas. This is Alabama's first national championship appearance since 1993. This game will be broadcast on ABC. However, we fear that if Sinclair and Mediacom are unable to reach an agreement, thousands of Alabamians will lose the opportunity to watch the Crimson Tide.

We are not asking for you to take sides in this matter. Rather, we request that the Federal Communications Commission take appropriate action to ensure that major sporting events such as the BCS National Championship are not held hostage during failed retransmission consent negotiations.

The interests of the public must come first. To that end, we believe it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission use its authority to prevent immediate interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between Mediacom and Sinclair.

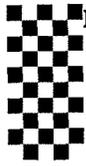
Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Richard Shelby


Jeff Sessions


Jo Bonner



Richard Shelby

United States Senator * Alabama

Committees:

Chairman - Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs
 Committee on Appropriations
Chairman - Subcommittee on Transportation
 Committee on Governmental Affairs
 Special Committee on Aging

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Date: 12/22

Page 1 of 2

To: Chairman Benachowski

Fax Number: 202-418-2806

From: Sen. Richard Shelby
 Phone: (202) 224-5744
 Fax: (202) 224-3416

Message: Please call Laura Friedel w/ questions



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your letter concerning the retransmission negotiations, in particular the negotiations involving carriage of local broadcast television stations owned or operated by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., on cable television systems operated by Mediacom Communications Corporation.

I welcomed the announcement on January 7, 2010, that Sinclair and Mediacom had reached a retransmission consent agreement governing the carriage of local broadcast television stations owned or operated by Sinclair. I have been informed that the one-year agreement authorizes the continued carriage of the signals of 22 television stations owned or operated by Sinclair in 15 television markets to more than 600,000 Mediacom subscribers. The agreement also provided that Mediacom would withdraw the retransmission consent complaint that it had filed with the Commission, which now has occurred. Most importantly, I was pleased that the parties chose to continue program carriage under interim agreements, and that consumers were not impacted as final negotiations were underway. Similarly, Time Warner Cable and Fox – also facing a year-end deadline – were able to conclude a retransmission consent agreement without any disruption of service to consumers.

Please be assured that the Commission will continue to monitor issues related to retransmission consent negotiations between broadcasters and MVPDs, and remains prepared to implement the Communications Act and its good faith rules when a broadcaster or MVPD files a retransmission consent complaint.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn of your concerns about this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Jo Bonner
U.S. House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bonner:

Thank you for your letter concerning the retransmission negotiations, in particular the negotiations involving carriage of local broadcast television stations owned or operated by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., on cable television systems operated by Mediacom Communications Corporation.

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