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E-Mail Subj: FCC & Comcast

To: Senator Murray 11-17-09

From: Tom Zeiner

I read in this morning's paper that Comcast is near a deal For NBC. This concerns me greatly as Comcast has proven to an unfair broadcaster prior to this acquisition, and I can only imagine what unfair tactics they will try if they are successful. Comcast is the perfect example of why we don't allow a monopoly in this country.

They are a monopoly because there are realistically only two ways to get full broadcast into rural homes, cable or satellite. In my case and many other peoples, this choice narrows down to satellite simply because cable is not available to our homes. Comcast has been extremely unfair in dealing with the satellite companies by denying them the rights to rebroadcast any shows produced by them. According to the Direct TV information Comcast is asking that they charge all of the satellite customers more money for the rights to broadcast the Comcast channel even if the customer does not want the channel. In addition Direct TV claims they are asked to pay substantially more for the broadcast rights than other providers in a blatant attempt to drive customers over to cable.

In my case Comcast carries the right to the Portland Trailblazers and broadcast their games on Comcast channel 37. I cannot see these games because they refuse to allow Direct TV to show them, and then to make matters worse, I still cannot see them even if I pay for an NBA Liege Pass package as they have blacked out the local broadcast so even if I am willing to pay more I still can't watch my local team. Another example is Comcast sports channel Versus, They have carried several Pac Ten games and again I have been unable to watch as they have denied made impossible the ability of Direct TV to carry the broadcast.

In summary, these are prime examples of how unfair Comcast can act in a blatant attempt to harm their competition. I can only imagine what they could do with NBC. Will I only be able to watch a major national network if I have cable? Or will Comcast force all of their competitors to raise rates in order to still see NBC. This is ridiculous and must be stopped their past practices must be considered before this deal goes through. Please at least slow this down as the FCC seems to have a conflict of interest with the management of Comcast, as the paper (A.P. article) quotes a former FCC chairman (Reed Hunt) as praising the management of Comcast. Make no mistake Comcast is a ruthless competitor that has bigger aspirations to use their monopoly.

Response: Buck Form for Constituent v.1(5/30/2007) (Edit Library)