

JO ANN EMERSON

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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<http://www.house.gov/emerson>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2508

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OFFICES:

2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4404

565 INDEPENDENCE STREET
SUITE 1400
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703
(573) 335-0101

1301 KINGSHIGHWAY
ROLLA, MO 65401
(573) 364-2455

22 EAST COLUMBIA
FARMINGTON, MO 63640
(573) 756-9755

36 COURT SQUARE
SUITE 300
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775
(417) 255-1515

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

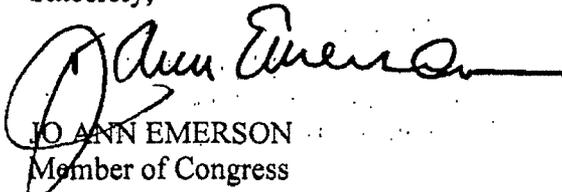
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As a representative of a very rural Congressional district, I would like to express my concern regarding the existing retransmission consent regime being considered for review by the Commission, and I encourage you to be mindful of the impact these local rules have on rural Missouri. The Commission's agenda, particularly the retransmission consent rulemaking, is timely and appropriate. Furthermore, this process could have a significant benefit on the availability of service and the prices paid by my constituents, and I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit with some of my district's smaller operators and learned they are paying significantly higher rates for programming than larger operators. I fail to see a legitimate economic justification for the price discrepancy between the predominantly rural smaller operators and the large media corporations serving densely-populated regions of the country. Small companies operating in Southern Missouri and I believe that their customers (my constituents) are ultimately being overcharged for service; it leads me to question whether the video programming market can function properly when one side of a contract holds such a disproportionate share of market power.

As the Commission moves forward with the retransmission consent rulemaking, I request you remain considerate of such market inequities and the impact they have on smaller, rural operators. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress