

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS  
19TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 226-5836  
FAX: (202) 226-1000  
www.house.gov/platts



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
ARMED SERVICES  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

April 27, 2010

FILED/ACCEPTED

MAY 17 2010

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

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

10-71

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) moves forward on its National Broadband Plan proceedings, its retransmission consent rulemaking, and its review of the Comcast-NBCU joint venture, I hope that you will work to ensure that all citizens have access to affordable video, voice, and broadband services. I am particularly concerned that those living in rural areas and who are served by smaller cable operators are continuing to receive affordable access.

It is my understanding that some of the smaller operators are paying significantly higher rates for programming than larger operators. Small cable operators have relayed that no legitimate economic justification has been provided to explain the vast difference in prices. While I believe that the market is always the preferred method for determining appropriate prices, it is important to ensure that the cable programming market is functioning properly for all consumers and providers involved.

It is also my understanding that federal regulations have not kept pace with the rapidly changing video programming market and this may be the cause for the price differential. Specifically, retransmission consent rules created in the 1990s have not been substantially modernized for over a decade. In addition, small providers believe that the "volume discount loophole," contained in the program access rules, has been exploited by programmers affiliated with pay television providers.

As you move forward with your work on the National Broadband Plan, the retransmission consent rulemaking, and the Comcast-NBCU transaction, I ask that you take these concerns into account. These proceedings provide an opportunity for the FCC to examine whether the market is operating fairly, especially for smaller operators and their customers in more rural areas. Thank you in advance for your consideration. As always, best wishes.

Sincerely,

TODD RUSSELL PLATTS  
Member of Congress  
19<sup>th</sup> District, Pennsylvania

ADAMS COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE  
22 CHAMBERSBURG STREET  
GETTYSBURG, PA 17326  
TELEPHONE: (717) 338-1918  
FAX: (717) 334-8314

CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE  
59 WEST LOUTHER STREET  
CARLISLE, PA 17013  
TELEPHONE: (717) 249-0190  
FAX: (717) 218-0190

YORK COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE  
2208 EAST MARKET STREET  
YORK, PA 17402  
TELEPHONE: (717) 800-1919  
FAX: (717) 757-6001

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

5  
MAY 2010 RCW