



SETH A. DAVIDSON
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August 17, 2010

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

**Re: Petition for Rulemaking to Amend the Commission's Rules Governing
Retransmission Consent, MB Docket No. 10-71**

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

You recently received a letter signed by a bipartisan group of thirteen members of Congress noting their concern that retransmission consent disputes are harming consumers, who either lose access to broadcast programming or bear the increased cost of such programming in the form of higher bills for cable or satellite service. The letter urges the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re-examining the Commission's rules governing retransmission consent to ensure that they protect consumer access to broadcast programming.

This letter, of course, represents only a small sample of the political leaders that have expressed concern in recent years over the harm to consumers when a broadcaster chooses not to extend a retransmission consent agreement pending resolution of retransmission consent negotiations or a dispute regarding those negotiations. For example, during the retransmission consent disputes between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group at the end of 2006 and again late last year, many state and local officials as well as a number of members of Congress wrote to the Commission on behalf of consumers. The overarching message expressed in these letters from leaders on both sides of the political aisle was that consumers need to be protected when retransmission consent negotiations fail.

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Page 2

August 17, 2010

For your reference, I have attached hereto letters that were sent to the FCC by members of Congress during Mediacom's retransmission consent disputes with Sinclair. We urge you to consider them along with other, more recent correspondence from Congress as an indication of the interest among elected officials, particularly those representing communities impacted by retransmission consent disputes, that the Commission should commence a process for finding solutions to the problems that are being caused for consumers by the current retransmission consent regime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Davidson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seth Davidson

cc: Commissioner Copps
Commissioner McDowell
Commissioner Clyburn
Commissioner Baker
William Lake
Marlene Dortch

Exhibit A

Exhibit A

List of Congressional Letters Sent to FCC

Date:	Member(s) Signing:
November 17, 2006	Sen. Herb Kohl and Sen. Russell Feingold
November 20, 2006	Rep. Steve King
November 20, 2006	Rep. Tom Latham
December 22, 2006	Rep. Edward Markey
January 4, 2007	Rep. Roy Blunt and Rep. Nathan Deal
January 17, 2007	Rep. Jo Bonner
January 30, 2007	Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Ted Stevens
November 23, 2009	Sen. Charles Grassley, Sen. Tom Harkin, Rep. Leonard Boswell, Rep. Bruce Braley, Rep. Tom Latham, Rep. David Loebsack and Rep. Steve King
December 4, 2009	Rep. Timothy Johnson
December 15, 2009	Rep. Edward Markey
December 17, 2009	Rep. Bruce Braley
December 22, 2009	Rep. Nathan Deal
December 22, 2009	Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions and Rep. Jo Bonner
December 23, 2009	Sen. Al Franken
December 28, 2009	Rep. Ed Whitfield

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

November 17, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Mediacom v. Sinclair Retransmission Consent Dispute
CSR-7058-C Written Ex Parte Presentation**

Dear Chairman Martin:

It has been brought to our attention that as a result of an ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group, many of our constituents are faced with the very real risk that they will lose access to one or more Sinclair owned broadcast TV stations affiliated with national networks on December 1, 2006.

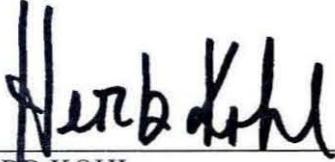
As we understand the dispute, Sinclair is threatening to remove its stations from the channel line-ups of Mediacom's cable systems, including those in Wisconsin, unless Mediacom agrees to Sinclair's demands for cash compensation at what Mediacom believes are excessive rates. We also understand that Mediacom has filed a complaint with the Commission asserting that Sinclair has not been negotiating in good faith as required by law and has asked the Commission to order Sinclair to allow Mediacom to continue to provide consumers with access to these stations on an interim basis until this dispute is resolved. We take no position on the merits of Mediacom's FCC complaint.

However, we are very concerned that the thousands of Mediacom subscribers in Wisconsin will lose access to three broadcast stations currently carried on Mediacom cable systems in Wisconsin, namely WMSM, the Fox network affiliate in Madison, and WCGV and WVTM, the UPN and WB stations in Milwaukee, during the months it is likely to take for the allegations in Mediacom's complaint to be adjudicated. We are particularly concerned that under the pleading schedule the Commission has established, it will not be possible for this matter to be resolved before the December 1 deadline. Therefore, we urge the FCC to grant the request for interim relief so as to minimize the disruption that our constituents will otherwise incur through no fault of their own.

Otherwise our constituents, many of whom are not able to receive a good signal for these stations over-the-air, will be deprived of their favorite programs before a final determination is made by the FCC. We would note that we have been informed by Mediacom that Mediacom has offered to protect Sinclair during this period of interim carriage by paying into escrow an amount requested by Sinclair, so Sinclair would not be harmed by a grant of interim relief.

We urge the Commission to insure that our constituents continue to have access to this programming while this dispute is being resolved. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



HERB KOHL



RUSSELL FEINGOLD

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein (Room 8-A302)
Commissioner Michael Copps (Room 8-B115)
Commissioner Robert McDowell (Room 8-C302)
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate (Room 8-A204)

STEVE KING
5TH DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE

SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1505

November 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Mediacom v. Sinclair Retransmission Consent Dispute
CSR-7058-C Written Ex Parte Presentation**

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to request that you ensure that my constituents in Western Iowa will have access to channels while a dispute being resolved. As a result of an ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group, some of my constituents risk losing access to channels affiliated with national broadcast stations on December 1, 2006. In the dispute, Mediacom has requested that the Commission issue an order to allow Mediacom to continue to provide consumers with access to these stations on an interim basis until this dispute is resolved.

I strongly urge the Commission to grant the request for interim relief so that my constituents will not lose their programming prior to resolution of the dispute. Otherwise, my constituents, many of whom are not able to receive a good signal for this station over-the-air, will be deprived of their favorite programs before a final determination is made by the Commission.

Sincerely,


STEVE KING
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein (Room 8-A302)
Commissioner Michael Copps (Room 8-B115)
Commissioner Robert McDowell (Room 8-C302)
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate (Room 8-A204)
Karen Kosar, Media Bureau (Room 3-C740)
Office of the Secretary, Marlene Dortch (two copies)

COUNCIL BLUFFS OFFICE
40 PEARL STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51903
(712) 325-1404
FAX: (712) 323-1403

CRESTON OFFICE
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CRESTON, IA 50801
(841) 782-2495
FAX: (841) 782-2497

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528 NEBRASKA STREET
SILOUX CITY, IA 51101
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FAX: (712) 224-4893

[HTTP://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/STEVINGKING/](http://www.house.gov/steveking/)

SPENCER OFFICE
P.O. BOX 850
SPENCER, IA 51301
(712) 580-7764
FAX: (712) 580-0354

STORM LAKE OFFICE
807 LAKE AVENUE
STORM LAKE, IA 50688
(712) 732-4197
FAX: (712) 732-4217

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
1432 LONGWORTH
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 226-4125
FAX: (202) 225-3193



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

TOM LATHAM
Congressman
4th District, Iowa

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Mediacom v. Sinclair Retransmission Consent Dispute
CSR-7058-C Written Ex Parte Presentation**

Dear Chairman Martin:

It has been brought to my attention that as a result of an ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group, many of my constituents are faced with the very real risk that they will lose access to one or more channels affiliated with national broadcast stations on December 1, 2006.

I strongly urge the Commission to grant the request for interim relief so as to minimize the disruption that my constituents will otherwise incur through no fault of their own. I am particularly concerned that under the pleading schedule the Commission has established, it will not be possible for this matter to be resolved before the December 1 deadline.

Otherwise, my constituents, many of whom are not able to receive a good signal for this station over-the-air, will be deprived of their favorite programs before a final determination is made by the FCC. I note that Mediacom has offered to protect Sinclair during this period of interim carriage by paying into escrow an amount requested by Sinclair, so Sinclair would not be harmed by a grant of interim relief.

I urge the Commission to insure that my constituents continue to have access to this programming while this dispute is being resolved. Please use your good offices to protect my constituents' ability to view programming they desire.

Sincerely,

Tom Latham

Washington Office:
2447 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5476
202-225-3301 Fax
1-866-428-5642 Toll Free

Ames Office:
1421 South Bell Avenue, Suite 108A
Ames, Iowa 50010
515-232-2885
515-232-2844 Fax

Clear Lake/Mason City Office:
812 Hwy 18 East
P.O. Box 532
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428
641-357-5225
641-357-5226 Fax

Fort Dodge Office:
1426 Central Avenue, Suite A
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-573-2738
515-576-7141 Fax

Email: tom.latham@mail.house.gov
Internet: www.house.gov/latham

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein (Room 8-A302)
Commissioner Michael Copps (Room 8-B115)
Commissioner Robert McDowell (Room 8-C302)
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate (Room 8-A204)
Karen Kosar, Media Bureau (Room 3-C740)
Office of the Secretary, Marlene Dortch

EDWARD J. MARKEY

7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNETSELECT COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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MEDFORD, MA 02155
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(508) 875-2900
www.house.gov/markey

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2107

December 22, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing with respect to the ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group. As you may be aware, cable customers in a dozen states are facing the risk of losing access to channels affiliated with national broadcast stations as of January 5, 2007, if the two parties fail to achieve a retransmission consent agreement.

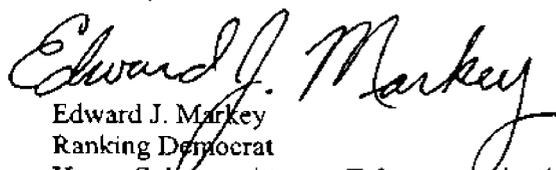
Mediacom has filed a complaint with the Commission asserting that Sinclair has not been negotiating in good faith, as required by law. In addition, although there are still over two weeks left to negotiate before January 5th, Sinclair issued a press release on December 18th indicating that "negotiations with Mediacom are not likely to result in an agreement being reached between the two companies."

I take no position here on whether Mediacom's petition has merit or not. I write simply to urge the Commission to render a timely decision on Mediacom's complaint in order to minimize adverse impacts on consumers and to ensure efficient operation of the law. A timely determination is important regardless of what finding the Commission may ultimately make. For example, the Commission may find that allegations of a failure by Sinclair to engage in good faith negotiations are unfounded. If so, then the two parties must resume hard bargaining to achieve an agreement, and failing that, the Commission should consider whether the public interest would be served by ordering mandatory arbitration or other measures to assist in resolving the dispute.

On the other hand, if the Commission were to determine that Sinclair has not engaged in good faith negotiations, then the Commission may need to take immediate steps to assure consumers that television service is not disrupted through no fault of their own. In either scenario, it is imperative that the Commission act upon the Mediacom complaint with sufficient time for the parties to negotiate further in order to protect consumer welfare.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Ranking Democrat
House Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As a result of the ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group, thousands of consumers are facing the risk of losing access to channels affiliated with national broadcast stations as of January 5, 2007.

As we understand the dispute, Sinclair is threatening to remove its stations from the channel line-ups of Mediacom's cable systems unless Mediacom agrees to Sinclair's demands for cash compensation for what have traditionally been free over-the-air broadcasts. We know that Mediacom has filed a complaint with the Commission asserting that Sinclair has not been negotiating in good faith as required by law and has asked the Commission to order Sinclair to allow Mediacom to continue to provide consumers with access to these stations until this dispute is resolved.

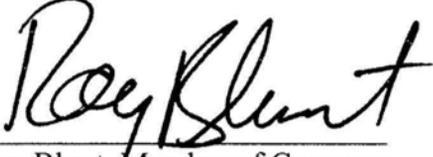
We do not want to start the New Year with the disruption to cable customers that will be caused if Sinclair carries through on its threat to deny Mediacom the right to carry channels that provide popular programming such as the BCS National Championship college football game (January 8) and the Super Bowl (February 4).

We strongly urge the Commission to act to avoid this disruption that these consumers will otherwise face through no fault of their own. We are especially concerned because many consumers are not able to receive a good signal for these stations over-the-air and may be deprived of their favorite programs before a final determination is made by the FCC.

Therefore, we urge you to take any appropriate action to prevent Sinclair stations from being denied to local customers and, as a last resort, order mandatory arbitration so a third party agreed upon by both Mediacom and Sinclair can determine the appropriate compensation. We believe this would help resolve the dispute before the deadline arrives and stations are removed from regional consumers' cable line-ups.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt, Member of Congress



Nathan Deal, Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein (Room 8-A302)
Commissioner Michael Copps (Room 8-B115)
Commissioner Robert McDowell (Room 8-C302)
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate (Room 8-A204)

JO BONNER

1ST DISTRICT, ALABAMA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

SERVING BALDWIN, CLARKE,
ESCAMBIA, MOBILE, MONROE AND
WASHINGTON COUNTIES**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2007

Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Martin:

I write to you today regarding a matter of great importance to many of my constituents in Alabama's First Congressional District.

It is my understanding that Sinclair Broadcasting Group has instructed Mediacom cable to remove several stations, most notably WEAR Channel 3, from their local cable system in Baldwin County, AL. This decision affects a great number of families and individuals that I represent in Congress. As a result of Sinclair's decision and subsequent inaction, Mediacom has filed a complaint with the FCC asserting that Sinclair has not been negotiating in good faith as required by law.

The purpose of my letter is to ask for your assistance to end this ongoing dispute between Sinclair and Mediacom by using your authority as chairman to encourage arbitration as a means to a resolution between these two companies. I think you would agree that we need a resolution - the sooner the better for my numerous constituents adversely impacted by this dispute.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

JB:jwd

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

January 30, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Martin:

It has come to our attention that a dispute between Sinclair Broadcasting Company and Mediacom exists involving a retransmission consent agreement. Because the matter has not been resolved, Sinclair has pulled its broadcast signals from Mediacom systems resulting in 2,000,000 viewers in 700,000 households being denied access to broadcast programming over cable. If this situation is not resolved promptly, rural Americans in some 12 states including Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama will continue to be deprived of valuable local broadcast programming, including in some cases the upcoming Super Bowl. Last year some Alaskans were denied access to the Super Bowl and we do not want to see a similar situation happen in other states. I urge you and your colleagues to take immediate action to resolve this dispute which could include binding arbitration.

Congress specifically contemplated the use of arbitration when it drafted Section 325 of the Communications Act governing retransmission consent. In a colloquy on the Senate floor, Chairman Inouye, then Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee, and Senator Levin made it clear that binding arbitration should be used in situations such as this where arms length negotiations had failed:

MR. LEVIN: I strongly suggest, and hope that the chairman of the subcommittee concurs, that the FCC should be directed to exercise its existing authority to resolve disputes between cable operators and broadcasters, INCLUDING THE USE OF BINDING ARBITRATION [emphasis added] or alternative dispute resolution methods in circumstances where negotiations over retransmission rights break down and noncarriage occurs, depriving consumers of access to broadcast signals.

MR. INOUE: The FCC does have the authority to require arbitration, and I certainly encourage the FCC to consider using that authority if the situation the Senator from Michigan is concerned about arises...

In a separate colloquy with Senator Burdick, Chairman Inouye said, "I am confident, as I believe the other cosponsors of the bill are, that the FCC has the authority under the

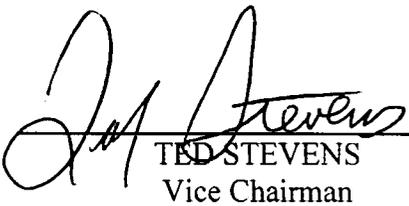
Communications Act and under the provisions of this bill to address what would be the rare instances in which [retransmission consent] agreements are not reached.”

We strongly urge you and the other members of the Commission to actively engage to resolve this dispute. At a minimum, Americans should not be shut off from broadcast programming while the matter is being negotiated among the parties and is awaiting action by the full Commission on appeal. We look forward to discussing this issue with you and the other Commissioners at our hearing on Thursday.

Sincerely,



DANIEL K. INOUE
Chairman



TED STEVENS
Vice Chairman

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents, up to one million of whom may be profoundly impacted by the outcome of negotiations between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcasting Group over retransmission rights for several Big 4 broadcast stations in Iowa.

As you may be aware, failure to reach a related compromise in early 2007 resulted in Mediacom customers losing Sinclair's Cedar Rapids based CBS station, KGAN, and Des Moines based FOX station, KDSM. During the four week impasse, our offices received thousands of phone calls and letters from upset Iowans who were unable to view many of their favorite network programs, NFL playoff games, the BCS National Championship Game, Big Ten college basketball games and local news and weather reports.

Since that time, Sinclair, through an operating services agreement, has also acquired control over the Cedar Rapids based FOX station, KFXA. Due to the fact that three Big 4 stations are now involved, the outcome of this round of retransmission consent negotiations between Mediacom and Sinclair is even more critical to the citizens of Iowa.

During the last dispute between Mediacom and Sinclair, many of our constituents were able to utilize rabbit ear antennas to pick up the analog over-the-air broadcasts of the Sinclair stations during four week impasse. As a result of the Digital TV Transition earlier this year, these Sinclair stations now only broadcast in a digital format. Many Iowans, particularly the elderly and low-income populations, rely on Mediacom to convert Sinclair's digital broadcast signals to analog so they can continue using their older analog only televisions. Given the expense of upgrading to a digital television or purchasing a digital to analog converter, it is unlikely that receiving the Sinclair stations over-the-air would be a realistic option for many Iowans this time around.

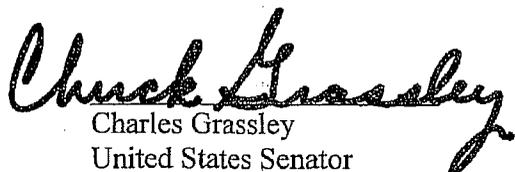
Iowans have come to depend on these FOX and CBS stations for news and entertainment. On behalf of our constituents, the customers of Mediacom and the viewers of the Sinclair stations, we write to you today asking that the FCC do everything in its power to ensure that a disruption in service does not occur again. In the event that Mediacom and Sinclair are unable to come to terms on a retransmission consent agreement, we request that, above all else, the FCC take action to protect the public interest.

At a minimum, the FCC should authorize interim carriage of the stations while the parties sort out their differences before the Commission. In the alternative, the FCC should consider ordering that the parties submit to binding arbitration if no arms length agreement can be reached.

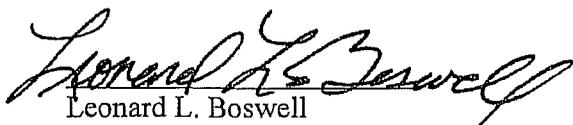
The interests of the public must come first. To that end, we believe it is imperative that the FCC use its authority to prevent any interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between the parties.

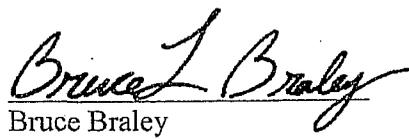
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

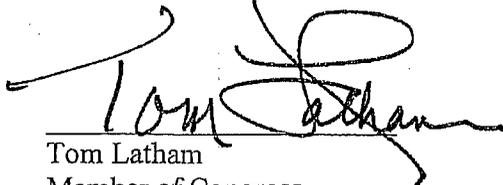
Sincerely,


Charles Grassley
United States Senator

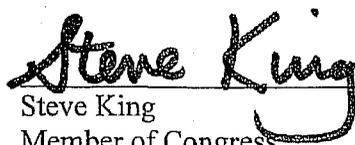

Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress


Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Tom Latham
Member of Congress


David Loeb sack
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress

THOMAS W. JOHNSON
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT
HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC
BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

- REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690
- 202 NORTH PROSPECT ROAD
SUITE 203
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
(309) 663-7049
- 655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT B
CHARLESTON, IL 61820
(217) 348-6759
- 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62653
(618) 262-3718

Dec. 4, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the citizens of Illinois, thousands of whom may be profoundly impacted by the outcome of negotiations between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcasting Group over retransmission consent rights for broadcast stations serving our state.

As you may be aware, failure to reach a related compromise in early 2007 resulted in 700,000 Mediacom customers in 12 states losing access to 22 broadcast television stations controlled by Sinclair. During the four week impasse, the nearly two million people residing in those households were unable to view many of their favorite network programs, NFL playoff games, the BCS National Championship Game, college basketball games and local news and weather reports.

During the last dispute between Mediacom and Sinclair, many of our constituents were able to utilize rabbit ear antennas to pick up the analog over-the-air broadcasts of the Sinclair stations. As a result of the Digital TV Transition earlier this year, these Sinclair stations now only broadcast in a digital format. Many of our citizens, particularly the elderly and low-income populations, rely on Mediacom to convert Sinclair's digital broadcast signals to analog so they can continue using their older analog only televisions.

Given the expense of upgrading to a digital television or purchasing a digital to analog converter, it is unlikely that receiving the Sinclair stations over-the-air would be a realistic option for many of the impacted households this time around.

Our citizens have come to depend on these stations for news and entertainment. On behalf of our constituents, the customers of Mediacom and the viewers of the Sinclair stations, we write to you today asking that FCC do everything in its power to ensure that a disruption in service does not occur again. In the event that Mediacom and Sinclair are unable to come to terms on a retransmission consent agreement, we request that, above all else, the FCC take action to protect the public interest.

At a minimum, the FCC should authorize interim carriage of the stations while the parties sort out their differences before the Commission. In the alternative, the FCC should consider ordering that the parties submit to binding arbitration if no arms length agreement can be reached.

The interests of the public must come first. To that end, we believe it is imperative that the FCC use its authority to prevent any interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between the parties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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(202) 225-2836

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
GLOBAL WARMING
CHAIRMAN

NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

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(508) 875-2900

<http://markey.house.gov>

December 15, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing regarding the ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications and Sinclair Broadcast Group. As you may be aware, cable customers in a dozen states are facing the risk of losing access to channels affiliated with national broadcast stations as of December 31, 2009 if the two parties fail to achieve a retransmission consent agreement.

Mediacom has filed a complaint with the Commission asserting that Sinclair is not negotiating in good faith. I take no position here on whether Mediacom's petition has merit or not. Rather, I am writing to encourage the Commission to render a timely decision on Mediacom's complaint in order to minimize the negative impact on consumers and to ensure the efficient operation of the law. A timely determination is important regardless of what finding the Commission may ultimately make. Specifically, the Commission may find that the allegations of a failure of Sinclair to engage in good faith negotiations are unfounded. If this is the outcome, then the two parties must resume hard bargaining to achieve an agreement, and if this fails, then the Commission should consider whether the public interest would be served by ordering mandatory arbitration or other measures to support the resolution of the dispute.

Alternatively, if the Commission were to determine that Sinclair has not engaged in good faith negotiations, then the Commission may need to take immediate steps to assure consumers that television service is not interrupted through no fault of their own. In either scenario, it is vitally important the Commission act upon the Mediacom complaint with sufficient time for the parties to negotiate further in order to protect consumers, such as elderly and low income households, who will likely face significant obstacles to accessing alternatives.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

BRUCE L. BRALEY
1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

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1019 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2911
Fax (202) 225-8666

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

ENERGY AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN, OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

POPULIST CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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December 17, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to you today to follow up on a letter I sent previously dated November 23, 2009. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of constituents in my district who would be affected by the Sinclair-Mediacom retransmission rights negotiations, I write to solicit the FCC to protect my constituents and the public good.

As you are aware, Sinclair Broadcasting Group is currently renegotiating their retransmission rights with Mediacom Communications Corporation. A similar retransmission negotiation failed to reach a compromise back in 2007 and resulted in Mediacom customers losing Sinclair's Cedar Rapids based CBS station and Des Moines based FOX station. What was left was a four week impasse where thousands of households had to go without important local weather, news, and safety programming, as well as NFL playoff games, college football championships and Big Ten college basketball games.

The situation has only become more volatile in the interim years. The transition to digital television has placed a substantial number of my constituents in a situation where they rely on the cable that they subscribe to and lack the necessary hardware to receive digital terrestrial broadcasts. This is particularly true of low income Iowans and the elderly, who rely on Mediacom to convert Sinclair's digital broadcast signals to analog, so that they can continue using their older analog-only televisions. Sinclair has also, through an operating services agreement, acquired control over the Cedar Rapids FOX station, further permeating Sinclair's control over local broadcasts in my district.

The current rebroadcast agreement between Sinclair and Mediacom expires Dec 31st. The February 7th Super Bowl is on CBS. The January 5th Orange Bowl, in which the University of Iowa is playing their championship game

with Georgia Tech, is on FOX. Mediacom's broadcast area is highly populated with the fans and alumni of the University of Iowa, and hundreds of thousands of Iowans stand to lose their chance to watch their team in the Orange Bowl if the FCC does not take action to referee the Mediacom-Sinclair dispute.

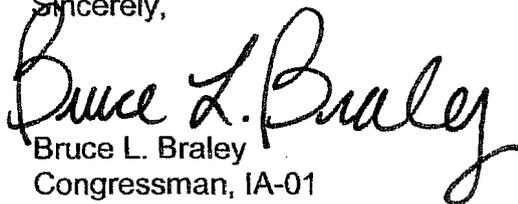
Sinclair Vice President Barry Faber said he does not think the standoff will be resolved before the Orange Bowl. "We continue to be willing to engage in negotiations, but right now I'm very pessimistic..." Faber was quoted as saying. He declined to say how much of a rate increase Sinclair wants.

I do not write to ask the FCC to take sides in this contentious negotiation. Rather, I ask that the FCC step in and take the appropriate actions to protect the public interest in the event that Mediacom and Sinclair are unable to come to terms on a retransmission consent agreement. At a minimum, the FCC should authorize interim carriage of the stations while the parties sort out their differences. As an addition or an alternative, the FCC should consider ordering the parties to submit to binding arbitration if no arms length agreement can be reached. Most importantly the interests of the public must come first.

Sporting events such as the Orange Bowl and the Super Bowl should not be taken hostage during a contentious negotiation like this. The FCC should step in and use its authority to prevent any interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between the parties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Bruce L. Braley
Congressman, IA-01

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Nathan Deal
Congress of the United States

December 22, 2009

Committee on
Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Communications, Technology,
and the Internet
Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the citizens of Georgia's Ninth Congressional District, whom may be profoundly impacted by the outcome of negotiations between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcasting Group over retransmission consent rights for broadcast stations serving our state. Sinclair owned WTWC-NBC, originates in Tallahassee and is carried by Mediacom in the Valdosta/Thomasville cable market area.

As you may be aware, failure to reach a related compromise in early 2007 resulted in 700,000 Mediacom customers in 12 states losing access to 22 broadcast television stations controlled by Sinclair. During the four week impasse, the nearly two million people residing in those households were unable to view many of their favorite network programs, NFL playoff games, the BCS National Championship Game, college basketball games and local news and weather reports.

During the last dispute between Mediacom and Sinclair, many of our constituents were able to utilize rabbit ear antennas to pick up the analog over-the-air broadcasts of the Sinclair stations. As a result of the Digital TV Transition earlier this year, these Sinclair stations now only broadcast in a digital format. Many of our citizens, particularly the elderly and low-income populations, rely on Mediacom to convert Sinclair's digital broadcast signals to analog so they can continue using their older analog only televisions. Given the expense of upgrading to a digital television or purchasing a digital to analog converter, it is unlikely that receiving the Sinclair stations over-the-air would be a realistic option for many of the impacted households this time around.

Our citizens have come to depend on these stations for news and entertainment. On behalf of my constituents, the customers of Mediacom and the viewers of the Sinclair stations, we write to you today asking that the FCC do everything in its power to ensure that a disruption in service does not occur again. In the event that Mediacom and Sinclair are unable to come to terms on a retransmission consent agreement, we request that, above all else, the FCC take action to protect the public interest.

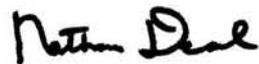
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At a minimum, the FCC should authorize interim carriage of the stations while the parties sort out their differences before the Commission. In the alternative, the FCC should consider ordering that the parties submit to binding arbitration if no arms length agreement can be reached. The interests of the public must come first. To that end, we believe it is imperative that the FCC use its authority to prevent any interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between the parties. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Deal

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2009

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.

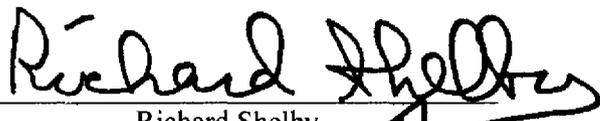
On January 7th, the University of Alabama is scheduled to play in the BCS National Championship Game against the University of Texas. This is Alabama's first national championship appearance since 1993. This game will be broadcast on ABC. However, we fear that if Sinclair and Mediacom are unable to reach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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309
December 23, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you today about the ongoing dispute between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcast group. As you know, the retransmissions consent agreement between Mediacom and Sinclair is set to expire on December 31, 2009. Mediacom has submitted a complaint and petition for emergency relief to the Federal Communications Commission. If Mediacom and Sinclair do not come to an agreement by December 31, cable customers around the country may lose access to various television channels.

I am not in a position to judge the merits of either Mediacom's or Sinclair's claims. However, I write to express my concern—both about the possible consequences if these companies fail to come to an agreement, and about the broader issue of Local Marketing Agreements and other types of agreements that decrease diversity in media without actually affecting media ownership.

If Mediacom and Sinclair do not come to an agreement by December 31, 2009, I have been informed that nearly 67,000 Minnesotan households may be affected. Regardless of which party's claims have merit, I urge the Commission to scrutinize the negotiations carefully and encourage the parties to come to a deal as quickly as possible. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, the Commission may wish to consider conducting oversight of the parties' mediation, or even ordering mandatory arbitration. The public interest is best served by a quick resolution of this dispute.

I am also, however, troubled by the broader issue raised in Mediacom's complaint—that Sinclair has also been negotiating the retransmission rights of other broadcasters. Increased media consolidation should be a major concern for the Commission, especially when the mechanism for consolidation evades the Commission's explicit rules on multiple broadcast ownership. Whether in the context of this dispute or in broader rulemaking, I encourage the Commission to look closely at Local Marketing Agreements and other kinds of agreements that may decrease programming choice. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator

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HEALTH
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1701

December 28, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the citizens of Kentucky, more than 50,000 of whom will be impacted by the outcome of negotiations between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcasting Group over retransmission consent rights for a number of broadcast stations serving our state.

As you may be aware, failure to reach a related compromise in early 2007 resulted in Mediacom customers losing Sinclair's Lexington, KY based FOX station, WDKY; Nashville, TN based FOX, CW and MyNTV stations, WZTV, WNAB and WUXP; and Paducah, KY-Cape Girardeau, MO-Harrisburg, IL based FOX and MyNTV stations, KBSI and WDKA. During the four week impasse, some Kentucky residents were unable to view the network programming, sports, local news and weather reports carried by these stations.

I am hopeful the parties can come to agreement on their own accord. However, in the event the parties do not come to an agreement, I write to you today asking that the FCC do everything in its power to ensure that a disruption in service does not occur.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

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