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February 15, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

MB Docket No. 10-238

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I write to offer comments to the Federal Communications Commission as it begins work on its report regarding in-state broadcast programming, as required by Section 304 of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act. As you may know, much of my Congressional district, the 6th District of Maryland, runs along the Pennsylvania border. One region, Garrett County cannot receive Washington DC/Baltimore/Maryland area TV stations. Rather, these constituents can only receive Pennsylvania local news stations in their homes. This situation is unfair and rightfully frustrating to my constituents who I believe should have the right to see broadcasts from their own state of Maryland.

I support my constituents' concerns and am committed to working to gain them access to Maryland television broadcasts. I am pleased that action has been taken on the state level. Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel (District 1A) and Senator George C. Edwards (District 1) introduced Joint Resolutions for consideration in their respective chambers. Since Federal law has jurisdiction over this matter, these Resolutions direct the Maryland Delegation to Congress to request the FCC to make Maryland broadcasts available to Garrett County.

I urge the FCC to develop a solution and address this problem. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working with the Federal Communications Commission to solve this problem and give all Maryland residents the ability to view in-state broadcasts.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress

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