

May 16, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing you in regards to the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA), specifically as it deals with in-state broadcast programming.

I live in the rural community of Mullen, Nebraska located in the heart of the Nebraska Sandhills. This community of 400 plus residents provides basic services for the entire county of Hooker as well as an equal portion of Cherry County in which our school district and EMS service encompasses. The nearest "shopping center" is located at a minimum of 75 miles in any direction, the nearest being North Platte, Nebraska. Additionally, we are fortunate to be home of two prestigious golf courses, Sand Hills Golf Club and Dismal River Club.

Having been born and raised in this community I have experienced many changes as it relates to television. Before cable TV became available to Mullen in the late 1970's early 80's the only reception was that obtained by a roof top antenna, which received a signal from a local tower erected with private donations. For many years, this tower served as a means to receive the NBC affiliate, KNOP-TV in North Platte, Nebraska, ABC affiliate, KDUH-TV in Scottsbluff, Nebraska as well as Nebraska Public Television. Although the reception was at best viewable at times, that was our only option. When cable TV eventually became available to Mullen, these signals were still rebroadcast using the same towers until Consolidated Companies purchased the cable system and made great improvements to the signal. At that time they also provided an over the air rebroadcast of the ABC affiliate- KHGI in Kearney, Nebraska, a much better signal.

The residents of Mullen have received notification that due to the financial impact to upgrade systems that provide cable services to Mullen, Consolidated Companies will be eliminating cable services in the communities they service. Although there are several communities involved, Mullen will have additional issues pertaining to local programming. Having been a satellite subscriber for several years, I contacted Dish Network when the "local" stations, KNOP, KDUH, KHGI, a local FOX affiliate and Nebraska Public Television became available via satellite. I was informed that Hooker County was assigned to the Denver market and they could only provide network programming from Denver, Colorado, which includes, NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox and Colorado Public Television. Patrons now looking for a satellite provider such as Dish Network and DirectTV are receiving the same information and will also have to receive network programming from Denver, Colorado.

Although the majority of the network programming is the same, local news, weather and emergency notifications are not available for Mullen, Nebraska via the Denver networks. Additionally, there are several programs available on Nebraska Public Television that is specifically directed for the State of Nebraska. Colorado Public Television does not air this programming. The Denver networks have no interest in providing service to our community or report on issues that our important to the residents of the Sandhills of Nebraska.

I have reviewed the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA) and I believe that the intent of this act is to provide in-state programming if available, specifically in our instance where local programming is available within 100 miles of our area, not the 300 miles in Denver, Colorado. I believe the commission recently revised a Significantly Viewed List, dated March 10, 2011 of stations serving Hooker County, Nebraska. There you will find KNOP-TV and KDUH-TV listed.

I would ask that you review STELA and provide guidance accordingly to those satellite providers in our area. I believe this is a very important issue for the community of Mullen and the Sandhills region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

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