

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
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VICE CHAIRMAN

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912
August 19, 2013

- WASHINGTON OFFICE
- 2311 BAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-8100
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 7132 LITTLE ROAD
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654-0514
(727) 232-2523
- 5811 ARDENIAN DRIVE
SUITE 102
WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 32545-4122
(813) 907-8242
- 666 KLOSTERMAN ROAD
ROOM 2021
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34665-1705
(727) 940-0060
- 3026 STATE ROAD 51
SUITE 212
DADE CITY, FL 33525-1289
(888) 379-2571

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

As a Representative of the 12th District of Florida, which contains portions of the Tampa Bay area, I am very hopeful that CBS and Time Warner Cable can resolve their retransmission content dispute as soon as possible.

This matter is certainly a dispute between two private entities engaged in contractual discussions. However, in the absence of a new agreement between the two sides, constituents in my district and the surrounding Tampa Bay area will continue to lack access to certain programming.

I am concerned to have learned that CBS has blocked subscribers of Time Warner Networks broadband internet access from accessing programming online via CBS.com. This action appears to have been made as a direct result of the retransmission consent contract negotiation. I respectfully request that the Commission analyze the merits of tying a consumer's access to internet content to his or her choice of cable television provider.

In the interest of consumers and their ability to access content on the internet, I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



**A facsimile transmission from the office of
Congressman Gus Bilirakis**

2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone: (202) 225-5755
Fax: (202) 225-4085

To: FCC, Office of Legislative Affairs

Fax #: 202-418-2806

Date: 19 August 2013

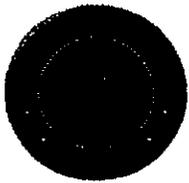
Re: Letter to Acting Chairwoman

From: Cong. Gus Bilirakis Sarah Criser
 Richard Hoar Tim Tracy
 Miriam Keim Josh Reiner
 David Peluso Tom Power
 Ian Martorana Liam Black

Number of pages including cover: 2

Comments: Rep. Bilirakis is sending the attached letter to the Chairwoman today. Sending this via fax as well to ensure office of Leg Affairs receives a copy. If there are any questions, I can be reached @ 202-225-5755.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn
Acting Chairwoman

The Honorable Gus Billirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Billirakis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent retransmission consent dispute between Time Warner Cable and CBS Corporation. I share your concerns with regard to the impact such disputes have on consumers.

Commission staff and I closely monitored the situation. I also engaged the parties at the highest levels to urge resolution of the dispute. I am pleased that the companies were finally able to reach agreement and restore the CBS programming to Time Warner Cable systems in early September, though the length of time stalemate was quite troubling. I hope that, in the future, media companies will put consumers' interests first and avoid such programming disruptions.

As you know, retransmission consent disputes involve private contracts where the Commission has limited statutory authority. However, should Congress decide to revisit this issue, Commission staff would be available as a resource for technical assistance.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mignon L. Clyburn".

Mignon L. Clyburn