

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C., 20554

Dear Commissioner Clyburn,

As VP & General Manager of WXYZ in Detroit, I am troubled by recent reports that the FCC might end its decades-old sports blackout rule. This rule is a key part of a system that works for the fans that watch NFL regular season and playoff games on free local television. In addition, the rule also works for my city's local economy, which benefits from strong stadium attendance on game days. When our football stadium is full, our local economy thrives. And fans in Detroit shouldn't be forced to pay to watch games they already get for free. Nearly all (more than 99 percent) of last season's NFL games were broadcast on free local television, and the NFL is actively working to see that fans have access to every game in 2014. I should also add that a sizable percentage of those broadcast-only homes (roughly 60 million Americans rely on OTA TV) are minority and/or lower-income households and would be affected by this rule change.

The current system is strong and isn't in need of a government fix. Please help protect the local businesses, economy and fans in Detroit that depend on this important rule. Everyone wins when NFL stadiums are full, and games are on free TV.

I thank you in advance in consideration of this message and if I can be of any further assistance in helping provide clarity to this issue, please feel free to have someone contact my office at 248-827-9201.

Best Regards,



Ed Fernandez  
VP/General Manager – WXYZ ABC Detroit  
Divisional GM – E.W. Scripps

