



Mt. Zion Oakwood Village

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

To Whom it May Concern:

Though my work as Co-Pastor of the Mt. Zion Church of Oakwood Village, a Suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest churches in the Greater Cleveland Area, I know the importance of free over the air TV to my congregation and my friends in the Greater Cleveland Area.

I have received information regarding 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 fans that watch NFL regular season and playoff games on free local television. The NFL is the only professional sports system that broadcasts all the regular and post-season games on free TV.

When the Browns stadium is at capacity, our local economy thrives, jobs are created and it guarantees all Cleveland Browns games will be available to Cleveland residents, not just those with cable television. A 2013 survey found that minorities currently make up 41% of all broadcast-only homes; up from 38% in 2010, this shows how crucial it is to leave the current NFL blackout rule in place. I have parishioners who are very concerned that if there is no Blackout Rule, there will be no protection for the people who fund the stadium, because it ensures the stadium is full, therefore bringing the maximum economic benefit to the area. I am told that on average, a home Browns game brings almost \$8 million in economic benefits to the City of Cleveland.

Nearly all (more than 99 percent) of last season's games were broadcast on free local television and the NFL is actively working to see that fans have access to every game in 2014. The current system is strong. It could be seen as unjust for fans in Cleveland to be forced to pay to watch games they already get for free. Please help protect our local community, local businesses, the Cleveland economy, and fans in Cleveland that depend on this important rule. Everyone wins when NFL stadiums are full, and games are on free TV.

Sincerely,

Rev. Larry L. Macon, Jr., J.D., M.A.
Executive Pastor

Dr. Larry L. Macon, Sr., Senior Pastor

Larry L. Macon, Jr. JD, Co-Pastor | Daniel L. Macon, BA, Co-Pastor