



**National
Urban League**

September 5, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 12-3

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

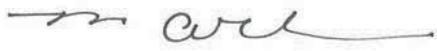
On behalf of the National Urban League, I write to urge the Commission to maintain its sports blackout rule, which has served the public interest for nearly 40 years. As the nation's largest historic urban advocacy and civil rights organization, the National Urban League has maintained a focus on economic empowerment since our inception in 1910.

The FCC's sports blackout rule has worked as intended, maintaining a regulatory framework that has promoted and protected the distribution of sports programming on free, over-the-air broadcast television. As a result, all Americans, especially the 22% of African American, 23% of Asian and 25% of Latino households who depend on broadcast-only TV, have access to valuable sports content. Many of these viewers are low-income and may not be able to afford the monthly subscriptions' cost of cable and satellite services.

More importantly, from my experience as the Mayor of New Orleans, I can attest that the current broadcast rule also promotes robust game attendance that provides economic benefits for the surrounding community. Sold-out games and capacity crowds generate jobs, investment and economic activity in our local communities and urban areas. This activity promotes employment and business opportunities in the hospitality, transportation, food, retail and other service-related industries. Thus, many businesses and workers – including low-skilled and entry-level workers – depend on and benefit from the revenue and income generated by the tens of thousands of fans attending football games and other stadium events.

Eliminating the rule may cost jobs and depress economic activity at a time when too many Americans, in particular African Americans, continue to face high unemployment rates and economic inequality. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Commission reject the proposal to repeal the sports blackout rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. morial", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc H. Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League