

ERIC J.J. MASSA  
29TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3229

1208 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: 202-225-3161  
FAX: 202-226-6599

1 GROVE STREET, SUITE 101  
PITTSFORD, NY 14534  
PHONE: 585-218-0040  
FAX: 585-218-0053

89 WEST MARKET STREET  
CORNING, NY 14830  
PHONE: 607-654-7566  
FAX: 607-654-7568

317 NORTH UNION STREET  
OLEAN, NY 14760  
PHONE: 716-372-2090  
FAX: 716-372-2869

June 24, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room 8C453  
Washington, DC 20554-0001

**1138**

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I would like to bring to your attention a problem in the 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of New York. Since the Digital Television Transition on June 12, 2009, scores of constituents have contacted me about their inability to receive a signal with the new television conversion boxes.

I have received numerous complaints about the lack of access to both local and cable channels alike. I believe my constituents concerns are well-founded; as taxpayers, their money has supplemented the funding for government-issued coupons to defray the costs of these new conversion boxes, yet, these devices are non-functional.

My sprawling District represents a diverse constituency, but most of the affected tend to be elderly or disabled and residents of very rural areas. My constituents and I are chiefly concerned about the inability to receive even local stations; given the rural nature of the District and the inclement weather expected in the winter months, it is imperative that these citizens can access local channels for emergency and public safety updates.

In fact, some of my constituents who once received five to fifteen channels are now receiving none. In an attempt to mitigate this lack of access, Comcast and other cable companies are now offering affordable packages carrying only local channels, but this service is only available in areas that receive a signal. Additionally, some of my constituents, after realizing that the conversion boxes were ineffective, invested their own money in expensive satellite dishes, only to find out that satellite in the Southern Tier of New York does not include local stations. My constituents are merely looking for basic cable so they can stay abreast of local events, weather and other important updates.

Mr. Chairman, as a Member of Congress, it is my duty to advocate on behalf of my constituents, and they are in need of your assistance. I look forward to your timely response, given the critical nature of this issue. If there is additional information you need from my office, please do not hesitate to call me at 202.225.3161.

Sincerely,



Eric J.J. Massa  
Member of Congress

22 JUL 2009 RCUD