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COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

December 3, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
The Honorable Michael Copps
The Honorable Robert McDowell
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
The Honorable Meredith Artwell Baker
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

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Dear Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that on October 17, 2009, East Carolina University's football game, televised exclusively on MASN, could not be seen in 1.4 million households in North Carolina. It is my understanding that this gap in programming was the result of an ongoing dispute between Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN) and Time Warner Cable (TWC).

I have written to the Commission about this dispute several times in the past. You may recall that the Commission established a clear process for resolving carriage disputes with TWC for independent sports programmers in 2006. Since then, two separate independent arbitrators have ruled in favor of MASN after thorough arbitrations of the carriage dispute between these two companies. And in October 2008, more than a year ago, a bureau of the Commission upheld the arbitrators' decisions and ordered TWC to carry MASN immediately.

Since January of 2009, TWC's petition for review has been circulated at the Commission, yet it is my understanding that to this day no action has been taken. The delay has meant that half of one basketball season, an entire baseball season, and much of another football season have now passed with this issue unresolved.

On behalf of the North Carolina colleges and universities, their fans and alumni, I urge the Commission to act quickly on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress