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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to express concern about the continuing negotiations regarding retransmission consent agreements between broadcasters and cable operators. If agreements are not reached before December 31, I understand that consumers, including my constituents, may lose local television channels that they depend on for news, weather, and other local coverage.

I understand that a complaint proceeding involving Mediacom Communications Corp. and Sinclair Broadcast Group is pending before the Commission, and several additional parties have raised concerns in connection with that proceeding. While I am not writing to express a position on that particular dispute, I am concerned about allegations that FOX Broadcasting Company is inappropriately inserting itself into its affiliate's negotiations.

As you know, the Communications Act and the Commission's rules state that affiliates must enter into negotiations "in their own right." However, I understand that just as some affiliates were prepared to enter into consent agreements, FOX demanded that they ask for cash payments of as much as \$1 per household per month—a dramatic increase—those affiliates were no longer able to proceed. I would urge the Commission to investigate these allegations and take whatever action is necessary to protect competition, localism and a diversity of viewpoints. Specifically, I would urge the Commission to consider ordering carriage on an interim basis and pursuing alternative dispute resolution options.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress