

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2009

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

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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents, up to one million of whom may be profoundly impacted by the outcome of negotiations between Mediacom Communications Corporation and Sinclair Broadcasting Group over retransmission rights for several Big 4 broadcast stations in Iowa.

As you may be aware, failure to reach a related compromise in early 2007 resulted in Mediacom customers losing Sinclair's Cedar Rapids based CBS station, KGAN, and Des Moines based FOX station, KDSM. During the four week impasse, our offices received thousands of phone calls and letters from upset Iowans who were unable to view many of their favorite network programs, NFL playoff games, the BCS National Championship Game, Big Ten college basketball games and local news and weather reports.

Since that time, Sinclair, through an operating services agreement, has also acquired control over the Cedar Rapids based FOX station, KFXA. Due to the fact that three Big 4 stations are now involved, the outcome of this round of retransmission consent negotiations between Mediacom and Sinclair is even more critical to the citizens of Iowa.

During the last dispute between Mediacom and Sinclair, many of our constituents were able to utilize rabbit ear antennas to pick up the analog over-the-air broadcasts of the Sinclair stations during four week impasse. As a result of the Digital TV Transition earlier this year, these Sinclair stations now only broadcast in a digital format. Many Iowans, particularly the elderly and low-income populations, rely on Mediacom to convert Sinclair's digital broadcast signals to analog so they can continue using their older analog only televisions. Given the expense of upgrading to a digital television or purchasing a digital to analog converter, it is unlikely that receiving the Sinclair stations over-the-air would be a realistic option for many Iowans this time around.

Iowans have come to depend on these FOX and CBS stations for news and entertainment. On behalf of our constituents, the customers of Mediacom and the viewers of the Sinclair stations, we write to you today asking that the FCC do everything in its power to ensure that a disruption in service does not occur again. In the event that Mediacom and Sinclair are unable to come to terms on a retransmission consent agreement, we request that above all else, the FCC take action to protect the public interest.

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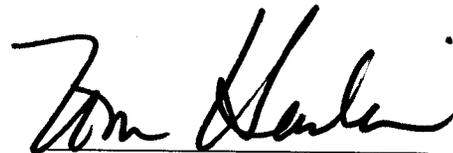
At a minimum, the FCC should authorize interim carriage of the stations while the parties sort out their differences before the Commission. In the alternative, the FCC should consider ordering that the parties submit to binding arbitration if no arms length agreement can be reached.

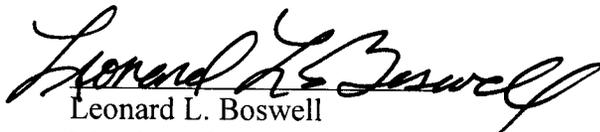
The interests of the public must come first. To that end, we believe it is imperative that the FCC use its authority to prevent any interruption in broadcast service during this round of negotiations between the parties.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

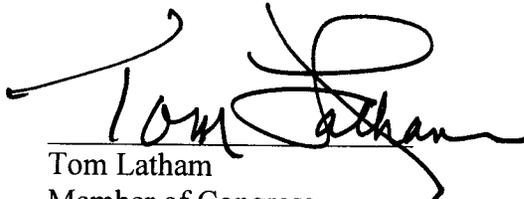
Sincerely,


Charles Grassley
United States Senator

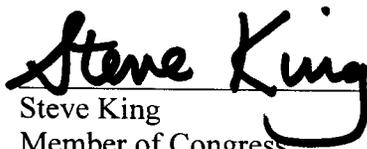

Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress


Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Tom Latham
Member of Congress


David Loeb sack
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