



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

Thank you for your letter concerning the retransmission negotiations, in particular the negotiations involving carriage of local broadcast television stations owned or operated by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., on cable television systems operated by Mediacom Communications Corporation.

I welcomed the announcement on January 7, 2010, that Sinclair and Mediacom had reached a retransmission consent agreement governing the carriage of local broadcast television stations owned or operated by Sinclair. I have been informed that the one-year agreement authorizes the continued carriage of the signals of 22 television stations owned or operated by Sinclair in 15 television markets to more than 600,000 Mediacom subscribers. The agreement also provided that Mediacom would withdraw the retransmission consent complaint that it had filed with the Commission, which now has occurred. Most important, I was pleased that the parties chose to continue program carriage under interim agreements, and that consumers were not impacted as final negotiations were underway. Similarly, Time Warner Cable and Fox – also facing a year-end deadline – were able to conclude a retransmission consent agreement without any disruption of service to consumers.

Please be assured that the Commission will continue to monitor issues related to retransmission consent negotiations between broadcasters and MVPDs, and remains prepared to implement the Communications Act and its good faith rules when a broadcaster or MVPD files a retransmission consent complaint.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn of your concerns about this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski