

JO ANN EMERSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
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*MB
Retransmission
PV
JGC 7/23*

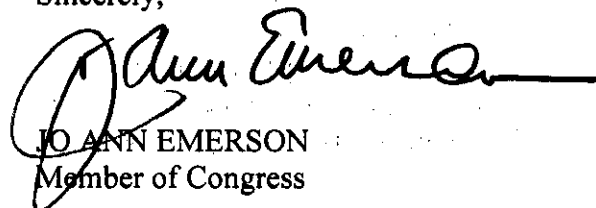
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As a representative of a very rural Congressional district, I would like to express my concern regarding the existing retransmission consent regime being considered for review by the Commission, and I encourage you to be mindful of the impact these local rules have on rural Missouri. The Commission's agenda, particularly the retransmission consent rulemaking, is timely and appropriate. Furthermore, this process could have a significant benefit on the availability of service and the prices paid by my constituents, and I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit with some of my district's smaller operators and learned they are paying significantly higher rates for programming than larger operators. I fail to see a legitimate economic justification for the price discrepancy between the predominantly rural smaller operators and the large media corporations serving densely-populated regions of the country. Small companies operating in Southern Missouri and I believe that their customers (my constituents) are ultimately being overcharged for service; it leads me to question whether the video programming market can function properly when one side of a contract holds such a disproportionate share of market power.

As the Commission moves forward with the retransmission consent rulemaking, I request you remain considerate of such market inequities and the impact they have on smaller, rural operators. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,


JO ANN EMERSON
Member of Congress

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