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10TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
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www.house.gov/young

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

July 23, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

1001249

*MP
Retransmission
1250*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is to inform you of my strong support for the letter sent to you today from several members in Congress, including Representative Israel and Representative King, urging you to quickly issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on reforming and updating existing retransmission consent rules. Due to a communication failure I was unable to sign on to the original letter but wanted to ensure you were aware of my support. I have included a copy of the letter for your review and look forward to reviewing the expected timeline for when the Commission will initiate a proceeding on this issue.

As always, I stand ready to provide any additional information. With best wishes and warmest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

C.W. Young
C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On March 9, 2010, a diverse group of interests urged the Commission to reform and update the existing retransmission consent rules. The Commission recently concluded the comment period on this petition, with cable operators, satellite operators, telecommunications companies, independent programmers and public interest groups all filing in support of reform. We now urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

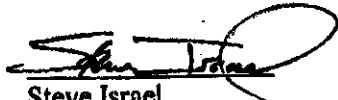
Under the Commission's rules, and pursuant to the statutory provisions in the 1992 Cable Act, multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPDs") – principally cable, satellite, and telephone company video systems – and broadcasters are required to negotiate in good faith for the right to retransmit local broadcast signals. For many years, these negotiations were concluded smoothly.

Increasingly, however, these negotiations are breaking down. Broadcasters claim they are not sufficiently compensated for their signals, and MVPDs claim they are trying to keep programming costs down. We have serious concerns with the harm these disputes are having on our constituents, who either lose access to broadcast programming or bear the increased costs of such programming in the form of more expensive bills from their pay-TV provider.

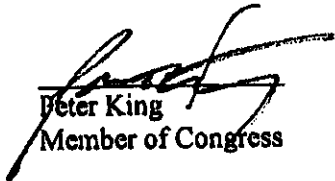
Given the harm to consumers under the current system, and considering the significant marketplace developments since the retransmission consent regime was created in 1992, we believe that it is time for the Commission to reexamine its rules governing retransmission consent and act to protect consumers.

We urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to protect consumer access to broadcast programming. We ask that you respond with the expected timing for when the Commission will initiate a proceeding on this issue.

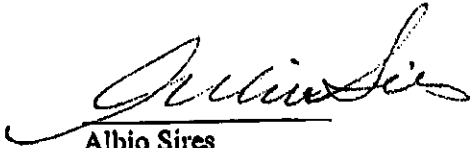
Sincerely,



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



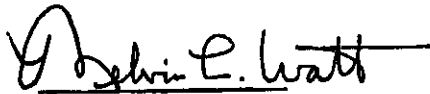
Peter King
Member of Congress



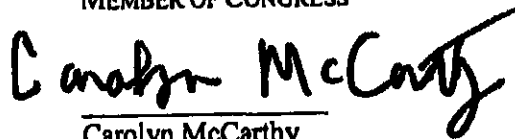
Albio Sires
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



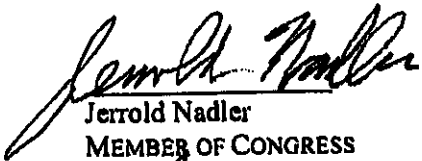
Steve Rothman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



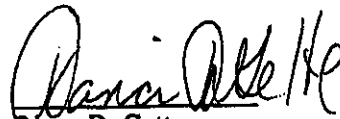
Mel Watt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



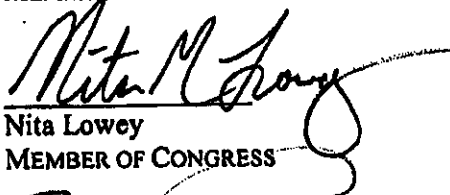
Carolyn McCarthy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jerrold Nadler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



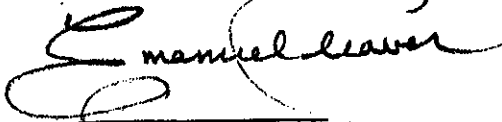
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