



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Howard Coble  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Coble:

Thank you for your letter concerning the potential negative impact of retransmission consent disputes on consumers. I share your concern about possible service interruptions caused by stalled negotiations between local broadcast television stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). Consumers should not bear the brunt of corporate negotiation problems.

As you may know, a coalition representing a number of MVPDs and public interest groups submitted a *Petition for Rulemaking* to reform the retransmission consent rules. The *Petition* asks that the Commission adopt new mechanisms for mandatory arbitration when MVPDs and broadcasters fail to reach retransmission consent agreements, and require continued carriage of broadcast signals during the negotiation or dispute resolution process. The *Petition* also requests the adoption of rules to change the practice of tying broadcast programming to the carriage of nonbroadcast services.

The Commission's Media Bureau issued a *Public Notice* inviting comment on the issues and proposals discussed in the *Petition*. The comment period recently closed and the Bureau is reviewing the record compiled in the proceeding to develop recommendations for Commission consideration. Given the importance of this matter to a wide range of consumers, we intend to treat this matter seriously.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski