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Congress of the United States
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JUDICIARY
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS
AND COMPETITION POLICY

**TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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August 3, 2010

MB
Retransmission
PV
JG
1277

The Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It is my understanding that retransmission consent negotiations between content providers and multichannel video programming distributors have become increasingly controversial.

In a perfect world the free market would drive these negotiations but the reality is that retransmission consent negotiations are not free from government involvement. This is complicated by another reality; the marketplace is subject to rapid change as new technologies come online.

The Federal Communications Commission has a responsibility to ensure the interests of consumers are not undermined when retransmission consent negotiations break down. With that in mind, I would support the Commission reviewing these negotiations. That being said, I do not advocate that the Commission take any specific action.

Sincerely,

HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress

HC:jfm

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