

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3206  
(202) 225-3461  
FAX: (202) 226-4169  
www.house.gov/meeks

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
153-01 JAMAICA AVENUE  
JAMAICA, NY 11432-3870  
(718) 725-6000  
FAX: (718) 725-9868  
1931 MOTT AVENUE, ROOM 305  
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691  
(718) 327-9791  
FAX: (718) 327-4722

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

GREGORY W. MEEKS  
6TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

August 11, 2010

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN  
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
CONSUMER CREDIT  
DOMESTIC MONETARY POLICY  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE  
ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND THE  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT  
AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH

*MB*  
*Retransmission*

*1357*

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

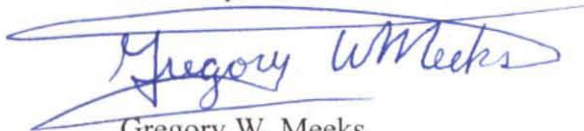
Many of the existing retransmission consent agreements between multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPDs") and broadcasters are set to expire within the next few weeks. If the parties cannot reach timely agreements, millions of New York residents could be left without access to programming.

Television viewers are undoubtedly harmed when channels are taken off the air due to a failure to reach compromise; however, simply the public threat of a station taking their signal off the air can cause complications that will adversely affect consumers also. While I understand the process for negotiating retransmission consent agreements takes time and can be a complex process, I am concerned about the continued uncertainty as to whether widely viewed programs will be available to millions of consumers in New York.

I would urge the Federal Communications Commission to begin to look at revising the rules by which retransmission consent agreements are considered. The means by which retransmission consent agreements are negotiated should be examined to determine how best to ensure that the interests of consumers are protected if and when retransmission consent negotiations reach an impasse. While I would urge the Commission to direct a process to review the current system, I would also encourage that it be done in such a way so as not to hinder localism, diversity, and competition.

Thank you for consideration of this important legislative matter. Should you have any questions, please free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress