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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2902

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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I applaud you for issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposals to revisit the Commission's retransmission consent rules, and encourage you to complete your proceeding in time for the Commission's decision to inform this year's retransmission consent negotiations.


Today, New Hampshire residents benefit from broadcast localism, including reporting on civic issues specific to the state legislature and important public safety information during times of emergency and severe weather. However, given its geographic circumstances, New Hampshire remains a unique media market and the governing federal regulatory policy hinders the ability of some residents to receive New Hampshire programming. With the emergence of satellite, local exchange carrier, and online platforms, the video distribution marketplace has fundamentally changed since the introduction of the retransmission consent framework nearly two decades ago.

Recently, I've heard from a number of my state's smaller pay-TV providers about how, as a result of these video marketplace changes, increasingly frequent negotiation breakdowns and rising retransmission consent fees result in both significant inconvenience and cost to consumers.

In light of these concerns, I am pleased that the Commission is looking into this situation. Examining whether these rules have kept up with the significant evolution of the video marketplace since 1992 is appropriate, timely, and important. I appreciate your efforts to tackle this difficult issue and, with hundreds of carriage deals set to expire by the end of this year, urge you to complete your rulemaking in a timely manner to inform this year's carriage talks.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter of importance that affects my constituents.

Sincerely,


Charles F. Bass

Member of Congress

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