



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 17, 2014

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter expressing your views on the Commission's pending proceeding regarding the sports blackout rule. I appreciate your long-standing interest in this issue.

As you indicate, the Commission proposed to eliminate the sports blackout rules in December 2013. In addition to assessing whether there is still a need for the rules, we also sought comment on our authority to eliminate, as well as the impact of such action. As you are aware, the Commission has acknowledged that repeal of the FCC's rules alone may not end blackouts, but it would leave carriage issues to privately negotiated arrangements. Comment periods ended in March, and the Bureau staff is reviewing the record developed.

I share your desire for a quick resolution to this pending proceeding. I have asked the Media Bureau staff to complete their review and to provide recommendations for the full Commission's consideration by early fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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June 17, 2014

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senate  
241 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

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