

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,
EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

640 PARK PLACE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov

784

July 30, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Pai, and Rosenworcel:

On December 18, 2013 the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MB Docket No. 12-3) to eliminate the FCC's 40-year old sports blackout rule. The public comment period began January 24, 2014, and the 60 day comment period closed over 120 days ago on March 25, 2014.

The FCC has received hundreds of comments from elected officials, fans, economists, professional sports leagues, broadcasters, and cable and satellite TV providers. As we approach the start of the National Football League (NFL) season I urge the Commission to move forward and hold a vote on a final order eliminating the sports blackout rules. This item is not currently on the publicly posted August Commission meeting agenda, and so I request that the Commission add the item to the agenda for the August commission meeting, or at the latest, the September meeting.

The NPRM recognizes the fact that the sports blackout rule is outdated, and is time to end this unfair and outdated policy once and for all. As the Commission noted "Changes in the sports

industry in the last four decades have called into question whether the sports blackout rules remain necessary to ensure the overall availability of sports programming to the general public.”

The Commission has looked the facts and made a preliminary recommendation. Now it must act. On behalf of my constituents and sports fans across the country I ask that you commit to bringing a final order to a vote at the August commission meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress