

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

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October 16, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR) recognized that every satellite television subscriber should have the opportunity to access their home state's television programming. As you know, STELAR authorized the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to act swiftly to review and grant petitions for market modification that allow local broadcast stations to reach local communities. With that in mind, we write in support of Monongalia County's and Preston County's market modification petitions (Docket No. 17-274 and 17-275) to allow in-state television broadcasts from Clarksburg-Weston, West Virginia-based stations into these counties. Importantly, this market modification will provide residents of these counties with access to in-state television broadcasts that provide coverage of the state capital and their communities.

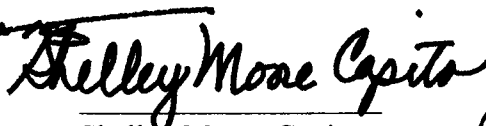
Monongalia County and Preston County are part of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Designated Market Area (DMA). As a result, satellite television subscribers in these counties currently lack access to West Virginia programming, including critical emergency information, the latest developments in state and local government, and local weather and sports. The Communications Act requires particular attention to be afforded to whether market modification would "promote consumers' access to television broadcast station signals that originate in their State of residence." There may be few better examples demonstrating the need for market modification than that satellite subscribers in Morgantown, the home of the West Virginia University Mountaineers, lack coverage of their favorite Mountaineer teams.

We therefore urge the Commission to work with the parties to grant the petitions expeditiously. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

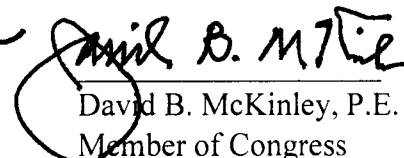
Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress