



OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter regarding the ongoing dispute between the Walt Disney Company's Hulu + Live TV and the Sinclair Broadcasting Group. As you note, this dispute has deprived hundreds of thousands of Hulu subscribers—in Ohio and across the country—of access to the local sports carried on Sinclair-owned Regional Sports Networks.

Section 616 of the Communications Act and the Commission's "program carriage" rules only govern negotiations between third-party video programming vendors and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). As such, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over carriage disputes involving non-MVPD over-the-top linear video providers like Hulu + Live TV. Nonetheless, I share your interest in the parties continuing to negotiate in good faith and hope they will come to agreement to minimize any disruption to Hulu + Live TV subscribers. Moreover, I agree that programming that reflects the community is important—and for many of us that means being able to view the home team.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you have any further questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jessica Rosenworcel