



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

The Commission has made significant progress working with broadcasters, the consumer electronics industry, and consumer groups to advance the ATSC 3.0 transition. This effort largely began in 2017 when the agency authorized broadcasters to use the NextGen TV transmission standard on a voluntary, market-driven basis. Since that time, the Commission has also issued experimental licenses to support the development and testing of the standard. As the technology and roll out of transmissions progressed, the Commission developed a licensing protocol to permit TV broadcasts in ATSC 3.0 while protecting consumers who still rely on legacy technology, and this has allowed broadcasters to take the important first steps you mention in your letter.

These efforts have helped bring the benefits of ATSC 3.0 to the market. Nonetheless, there are some challenges ahead. Most importantly, this technology is not backwards compatible. That means it does not work with the existing sets and receivers most consumers have in their homes. While the consumer electronics industry has begun to make new compatible television sets and receivers available, such options are not yet universal. Moreover, the cost of this new equipment can prevent consumers from experiencing the benefits of this new technology and any transition that does not address this matter up front could leave many households behind, with existing sets and receivers no longer able to provide access to the local news, public safety information, and entertainment they have come to expect.

To manage these matters, to date the Commission has required simulcasting of substantially similar television content in both the current ATSC 1.0 standard and the new ATSC 3.0 standard. This allows broadcasters to gain real-world experience with the deployment of this

new technology while also ensuring consumers can continue to access the television programming they have come to expect.

However, to ensure the transition to this new standard can proceed more can be done. That is why this week I announced that the Commission will be participating in a new Future of Television initiative. This public-private partnership will include industry, government, and public interest stakeholders coming together to establish a roadmap for a successful transition from ATSC 1.0 to ATSC 3.0. This effort, which has been developed with the National Association of Broadcasters, is designed to address the big picture issues associated with this change in technology and the challenges—like the lack of backwards compatibility and its impact on consumers—that require solutions. Specifically, the group will be charged with considering equipment availability and other consumer matters, steps required to complete the transition, and what post-transition rules should look like. I believe this Future of Television initiative is a positive development that can help identify a way forward that allows broadcasters to innovate while protecting the public interest and consumers, especially those most vulnerable.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. I look forward to working with all stakeholders, from broadcasters and the consumer electronics industry to consumers and Congress to identify what needs to be done to ensure that any transition is smooth. The Future of Television initiative is the first step in this process. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Young:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Mike Braun  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Braun:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Peter Welch  
United States Senate  
G12 Senate Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Welch:

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OFFICE OF THE  
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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

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April 18, 2023

The Honorable Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senate  
388 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warnock:

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senate  
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senate  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lummis:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
United States Senate  
479A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Marshall:

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Ted Budd  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Budd:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
United States Senate  
330 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cramer:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senate  
142 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tuberville:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Jon Ossoff  
United States Senate  
455 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

April 18, 2023

The Honorable John Hoeven  
United States Senate  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven:

Thank you for your letter supporting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard (NextGen TV or ATSC 3.0) and the role of the Federal Communications Commission in this voluntary transition to a new standard. I agree that television broadcasters serve a vital role by providing consumers with access to free local news, public safety information, and entertainment programming and that ATSC 3.0 technology has the potential to deliver new and innovative features. These features include new opportunities for 4K sports programming, enhanced emergency alerting, and greater consumer control over access to content they want, when they want it.

The Commission has made significant progress working with broadcasters, the consumer electronics industry, and consumer groups to advance the ATSC 3.0 transition. This effort largely began in 2017 when the agency authorized broadcasters to use the NextGen TV transmission standard on a voluntary, market-driven basis. Since that time, the Commission has also issued experimental licenses to support the development and testing of the standard. As the technology and roll out of transmissions progressed, the Commission developed a licensing protocol to permit TV broadcasts in ATSC 3.0 while protecting consumers who still rely on legacy technology, and this has allowed broadcasters to take the important first steps you mention in your letter.

These efforts have helped bring the benefits of ATSC 3.0 to the market. Nonetheless, there are some challenges ahead. Most importantly, this technology is not backwards compatible. That means it does not work with the existing sets and receivers most consumers have in their homes. While the consumer electronics industry has begun to make new compatible television sets and receivers available, such options are not yet universal. Moreover, the cost of this new equipment can prevent consumers from experiencing the benefits of this new technology and any transition that does not address this matter up front could leave many households behind, with existing sets and receivers no longer able to provide access to the local news, public safety information, and entertainment they have come to expect.

To manage these matters, to date the Commission has required simulcasting of substantially similar television content in both the current ATSC 1.0 standard and the new ATSC 3.0 standard. This allows broadcasters to gain real-world experience with the deployment of this

new technology while also ensuring consumers can continue to access the television programming they have come to expect.

However, to ensure the transition to this new standard can proceed more can be done. That is why this week I announced that the Commission will be participating in a new Future of Television initiative. This public-private partnership will include industry, government, and public interest stakeholders coming together to establish a roadmap for a successful transition from ATSC 1.0 to ATSC 3.0. This effort, which has been developed with the National Association of Broadcasters, is designed to address the big picture issues associated with this change in technology and the challenges—like the lack of backwards compatibility and its impact on consumers—that require solutions. Specifically, the group will be charged with considering equipment availability and other consumer matters, steps required to complete the transition, and what post-transition rules should look like. I believe this Future of Television initiative is a positive development that can help identify a way forward that allows broadcasters to innovate while protecting the public interest and consumers, especially those most vulnerable.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. I look forward to working with all stakeholders, from broadcasters and the consumer electronics industry to consumers and Congress to identify what needs to be done to ensure that any transition is smooth. The Future of Television initiative is the first step in this process. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Jessica Rosenworcel