

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2023

314

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street Northeast
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

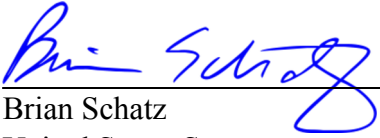
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should take an active role in expediting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television standard, or ATSC 3.0. The Next Gen TV standard is essential to the continued vitality and competitiveness of local television broadcasters' free, local, and trusted service in our communities. This pro-consumer, innovative technology will allow local stations to better serve their viewers with improved pictures and sound, interactive features, including expanded local news, advanced emergency alerting, and the ability to deliver to viewers the content that is most relevant to them, when they want it, where they want it.

In the nearly seven years since broadcasters and the consumer electronics industry jointly petitioned the FCC to begin a voluntary transition to this new standard, major marketplace advancements have been made. Already, more than 60% of Americans have access to Next Gen TV. And, while local markets continue to launch every month, many outstanding markets face challenges like capital and spectrum constraints, particularly in rural and urban markets, respectively. At the same time, the video marketplace has evolved, and it is now a competitive imperative for video platforms to deliver ultra-high-definition (4K) programming. If broadcasters cannot compete for high-value, 4K sports programming for example, and it instead flows to tech platforms, broadcasters' proven, decades-long investment in local news content will be undermined and, most important, viewers will lose a competitive option that is available for free over the air.

Accordingly, a successful ATSC 3.0 transition should be a priority of the FCC going forward to ensure that local broadcasters can continue to best serve their communities as a trusted source of local news. Just as the FCC has successfully championed other innovative technologies like 5G, Wi-Fi, and the 2009 digital TV transition, we believe there is an essential role for the FCC in helping broadcasters and viewers fully realize the potential of Next Gen TV. We urge the FCC to take an active role in addressing the complex – but imminently solvable – questions posed by the transition from ATSC 1.0 to 3.0, including working with Congress, public broadcasters, and industry to ensure consumers with legacy TVs are not harmed by any changes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

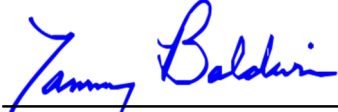
Sincerely,



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



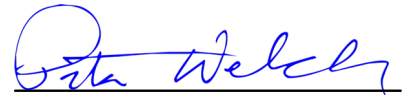
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



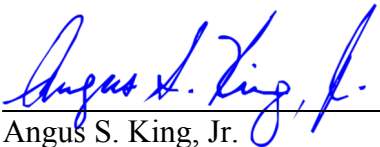
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



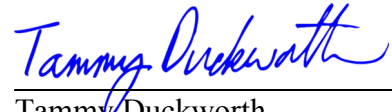
Mike Braun
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator




Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



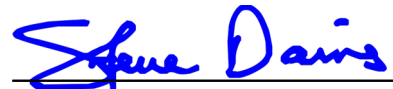
John Boozman
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Roger Marshall M.D.
U.S. Senator




Ted Budd
United States Senator




Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



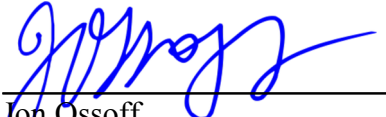
Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



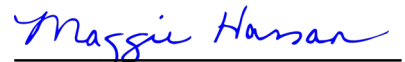
Jon Tester
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator