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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL SHARES PROPOSALS TO
EMPOWER CONSUMERS DURING CABLE & SATELLITE TV
BLACKOUTS**

*Proposals Would Seek Comment on Rebates for Consumers and Commission
Notifications of Blackouts*

WASHINGTON, October 11, 2023—Today, Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced two proposals that would further the FCC’s strategic goal to empower consumers in the media marketplace. The Chairwoman shared two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking with her fellow Commissioners that would, if adopted by a vote of the full Commission, seek comment on rebates for consumers and requiring notifications to the Commission of blackouts lasting more than 24 hours.

“Enough with the blackouts,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “When consumers with traditional cable and satellite service turn on the screen, they should get what they pay for. It’s not right when big companies battle it out and leave viewers without the ability to watch the local news, their favorite show, or the big game. If the screen stays dark, they deserve a refund.”

The Chairwoman circulated two related blackout proposals, as summarized:

- *A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that seeks comment on whether and how to require cable and satellite providers to issue rebates to subscribers in the event of a blackout due to a failure to reach a retransmission consent agreement with broadcast station(s)/group owners.
- *A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that seeks comment on a proposal to require Multichannel Video Program Distributors (MVPDs) to notify the Commission via an online public portal when there is a blackout of 24 hours or more of broadcast programming due to a failure to reach a retransmission consent agreement.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).