

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2019

Mr. John Donovan
Chief Executive Officer
AT&T Communications, LLC
208 S. Akard St. Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Donovan:

We write to address concerns about two issues that affect thousands of AT&T/DIRECTV satellite television subscribers in small rural media markets and remote areas of our country.

First, we understand from conversations with our constituents that AT&T/DIRECTV delivers locally broadcasted networks to local markets in 198 of America's 210 media markets but does not offer similar service in 12 of the smallest markets. Despite technological advances that allow satellite companies to serve local channels into local markets in any location, the customers in these 12 media markets still receive limited or no access to locally broadcasted network stations through their subscriptions.

Secondly, we hear from folks living in the most remote areas of our states that AT&T/DIRECTV often delivers distant signals from places like New York City and Los Angeles instead of a nearby media market that may carry important and relevant local news and alerts. We acknowledge that the distant signal provisions in current law allows this, however, we do not see why AT&T/DIRECTV could not work to minimize the distance and provide local news from within the subscriber's region.

In both of these circumstances, rural consumers are shortchanged based on where they live. Without access to local broadcasting, your subscribers in these situations miss vital information on public safety, weather, elections, and opportunities for community engagement. This is unacceptable and a practice that must be ended as we work to close the digital divide.

I urge AT&T/DIRECTV to make the necessary investments to serve these remaining 12 media markets with local channels and improve local service options for customers in remote areas. We look forward to your response.

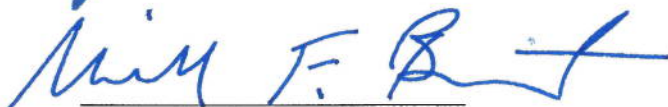
Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator