



**Jared Golden**  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

May 10, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Pallone and Nadler, and Ranking Members Walden and Collins:

As your Committees begin deliberation on whether or not the expiring provisions of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 200-113, "STELAR") should be reauthorized or allowed to sunset as originally intended, I wanted to highlight how this law, and the distant signal license contained therein, impacts the availability of local news and information in my congressional district and across the country.

It has come to my attention that AT&T/DIRECTV subscribers in Northern Maine's Presque Isle media market do not have access to their local broadcast channels even though there is no technological limitation preventing AT&T/DIRECTV from delivering them. Instead, these subscribers receive distant network signals, thereby denying communities in my district from accessing critically important local news, weather, and emergency information.

When the distant signal license was first temporarily passed into law thirty years ago, it was not technologically possible to deliver local broadcast channels into all markets. However, over the past three decades, the satellite industry has grown into a viable competitor to cable television service.

It is clear that the distant signal license has outlived its usefulness and now disincentivizes AT&T/DIRECTV from offering local programming to viewers in Northern Maine. I ask that you weigh this impact on my constituents - along with viewers in other neglected markets across the country - as Congress weighs its decision to reauthorize STELAR.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Golden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

JARED GOLDEN  
Member of Congress