

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1502**

May 30, 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  
2322 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 the Energy and Commerce Committee and Judiciary Committees begin deliberation on the expiring provisions of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 200-113, "STELAR"), I wanted to bring to your attention how this law impacts my constituents' ability to get local news and information in my district.

As you may know, In 1988, Congress established the distant signal license so that the nascent satellite television industry would be able to offer network programming to its subscribers because it was not yet technically feasible to deliver local channels into local markets. However, by 1999 the satellite technology had evolved and because local into local was now technically feasible, Congress created a new statutory license for local into local transmissions. Over the last 20 years, the two satellite television companies, DIRECTV and the DISH Network, proceeded to roll out local into local service across the country starting with the largest markets in the country and slowing moving into the less populated markets.

Today, satellite television customers in 198 of the 210 markets have the option of getting their local channels from both satellite television providers - DIRECTV or the DISH Network. Unfortunately, satellite customers in 12 television markets, including the Ottumwa-Kirksville DMA which covers Ottumwa, Iowa in my congressional district, do not have a choice of satellite providers if they wish to get local broadcast channels via satellite. There is no technological reason for this slight as the DISH Network offers local into local in all 210 markets. However, DIRECTV has elected to continue to use the distant signal license in my district and offer my constituents distant network programming from outside their local DMA.

It is apparent that the existence of the distant signal license creates a disincentive for DIRECTV to offer my constituents the broadcast channels from their local DMA. As the Energy and Commerce and Judiciary Committees examine STELAR, I'd ask that you keep in mind how this law impacts viewers in my district, as well as viewers in the 11 other neglected markets across the country, from accessing important local broadcast programming via satellite.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack  
Member of Congress