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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 02, 2019

Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

I write to express my opposition to any effort to reauthorize the Copyright Act's section 119 compulsory license for satellite retransmission of broadcast distant signals. This provision is preventing residents in Victoria, TX, located in my district, from receiving local weather, news, and alerts by providing multi-billion dollar satellite companies with the ability to import distant signals from places like New York City and Los Angeles.

As you know, created by Congress in 1988, the compulsory license for satellite retransmission of broadcast television distant signals (17 USC § 119) gave satellite television companies a significantly discounted copyright license. The goal of this policy was to enable these nascent satellite television companies to compete with what were essentially cable monopolies.

Thankfully, due to a rapid expansion of technological advances and market growth, those nascent satellite companies are no longer in need of this subsidy. Both AT&T/DIRECTV and DISH have grown into multi-billion dollar businesses and satellites can now deliver local TV stations to all 210 local media markets. Unfortunately, there are still 12 smaller markets that AT&T/DIRECTV do not serve and one of those, Victoria, TX, is in my district.

Residents in my district are being hurt by the reauthorization of this provision, so I urge you and your committee to allow this part of the law to sunset.

God Bless,



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress