

MIKE THOMPSON

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT  
REVENUE MEASURES

PERMANENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,  
HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS AND  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 27, 2013

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0701

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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

For decades, television viewers have been inconvenienced by wildly fluctuating volumes played during the commercials of their favorite television programs. That is why I coauthored the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act (P.L. 111-311), whose rules went into effect more than six months ago.

Pursuant to the CALM Act, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is required as of December 13, 2012 to enforce rules that will limit the volume of audio on commercials transmitted by television broadcast stations, cable operators, and other multichannel video programming distributors. Unfortunately, a number of my constituents have reported to me that loud commercials are still prevalent even after the CALM Act went into effect. As a coauthor of this law, I am concerned that television providers are not complying with the CALM Act rules and that the FCC is not adequately enforcing this new law.

I request that you provide me with an explanation of how the FCC is currently enforcing the requirements of the CALM Act and why viewers are still reporting that television commercials are still louder than the programming that they accompany. Should you need further information about this request or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ian Blue in my office at (202) 225-3311.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai