

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2013

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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Clyburn:

We are writing to inquire about the status of the long-pending request of television station WMC-TV, Memphis, Tennessee, which serves a number of our constituents, to move from a low VHF channel to a UHF channel.

WMC-TV currently operates on low VHF Channel 5. As the Commission has acknowledged, low VHF channels have proved to be very problematic in the digital era. Although WMC filed its request with the FCC to change to a UHF channel in May 2011, the FCC has not yet acted on this request. During this time, viewers that rely heavily on free antenna TV service, such as low income households and seniors, are experiencing ongoing service problems.

It is our understanding that there are only two stations in the country with pending requests to move from low VHF channels to UHF channels, WMC-TV and WCYB-TV, Bristol, Virginia, which also serves many viewers in Tennessee. The FCC previously granted requests filed by several similarly situated stations, but it has not acted on requests from WMC-TV and WCYB-TV in light of the upcoming repacking authorized by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

We would like to point out that when Congress enacted this legislation, the law made clear that the Commission had authority to process petitions that had already been filed, such as WMC-TV's and WCYB-TV's. With viewers in Tennessee waiting over two years for a decision, we wanted to contact the Commission regarding the current status of the request

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator

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FAX COVER SHEET

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Pages with cover sheet: 2

Date: September 19, 2013

Notes:

If you have any questions please contact Allison P. Martin at 202-224-1208 or allison_martin@alexander.senate.gov