

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Received & Inspected

SEP 23 2013

September 18, 2013

FCC Mail Room

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

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Dear Chairwoman Clyburn:

We are writing to draw your attention to the urgent need for action on the long-pending request of station WMC-TV, Memphis, Tennessee, to move from low VHF Channel 5 to UHF Channel 17.

WMC-TV filed its request to change channels over two years ago, in May 2011, because so many of its viewers and our constituents have been unable to receive the station's free, over-the-air signal since the digital transition in 2009. The inability to receive WMC-TV's low VHF signal hits hardest senior citizens, low-income households, and African American households which still depend substantially on over-the-air television. These viewers are unable to access WMC-TV's vital news and emergency information, network programming — including Bounce TV programming, a network launched specifically to serve African American viewers — and other program offerings. Many have been forced to pay for cable or satellite subscriptions in order to receive the station's signal, while many others cannot afford to do so, and have simply given up on being able to access WMC-TV's services.

By moving to its requested UHF channel, WMC-TV would be able to provide a more robust over-the-air signal that would be free to these households. We understand that the Commission has expressed reluctance to process the station's petition, although it was filed before the freeze on future, similar filings was issued. Notably, in issuing the freeze, the Commission committed to continue processing petitions that already had been filed. In addition, Congress added Section 6403(g)(1)(B) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to ensure that the Commission could act on such petitions consistent with — not contrary to — that legislation.

Thousands of viewers have been waiting for years for relief on this issue. In the interests of basic fairness and serving the public interest, we ask that the Commission move expeditiously to take action on WMC-TV's petition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

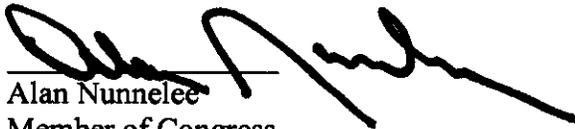
Sincerely,



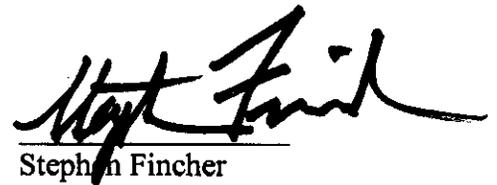
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

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