



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2014

The Honorable Spencer Bachus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2246 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bachus:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Black Television News Channel's ("BTNC") waiver request. Your views will be taken into consideration, and your letter will be entered into the record for this proceeding.

As you are aware, Congress has imposed certain requirements on Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) carriers, including the requirement to reserve a percentage of channel capacity for noncommercial educational or informational programming. Commission rules currently require four percent of a DBS carrier's channel capacity to be reserved exclusively for noncommercial programming of an educational or informational nature.

As you note, BTNC recently filed a request for a three-year waiver from this requirement. On May 15, 2014, the Media Bureau released a Public Notice requesting comments on BTNC's waiver request. The comment periods have closed, and the Media Bureau has started its review of the record.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler