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MASSACHUSETTS

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U.S. SENATE CLIMATE CHANGE CLEARINGHOUSE

United States Senate

August 5, 2016

629

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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101
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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write to express my concern about the ongoing retransmission consent dispute between Sunbeam Television and DirecTV, which is affecting approximately 160,000 DirecTV subscribers in Greater Boston who have been left without their normal access to WHDH programming since July 16. When the Olympics begin this evening, such suspension of service will become even more serious for these customers.

I make no representations as to the merits of either side's position, as these are contractual discussions between private parties. I have written to both companies encouraging them to remain engaged in good faith negotiations. (See attachment)

Clearly, the public interest would be served if carriage is restored by the parties at the earliest possible opportunity so that customers are no longer disadvantaged as a result of this dispute. We request that you take action to bring the parties together so these negotiations can be concluded in an equitable and expeditious manner and signal restored. Consumers should not be caught in the middle.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

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Mr. Edmund Ansin
President
Sunbeam Television Corp
1401 79th Street Causeway
North Bay Village, FL 33141

Mr. Randall L. Stephenson
Chairman and CEO
AT&T (DirecTV)
208 South Akard Street
Dallas, TX 75202

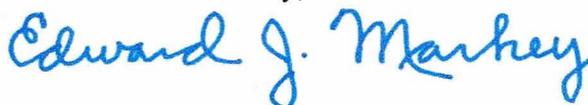
Dear Mr. Ansin and Mr. Stephenson:

I write to express my concern about the impact your ongoing business dispute over retransmission fees is having on approximately 160,000 DirecTV subscribers in Greater Boston who have been left without their normal access to WHDH programming since July 16. When the Olympics begin this evening, such suspension of service will become even more serious for these customers.

I make no representations as to the merits of either side's position, as these are contractual discussions between private parties. I encourage both parties to remain engaged in good faith negotiations. I am also requesting that the Federal Communications Commission take action to bring both parties together so these negotiations can be concluded in an equitable and expeditious manner. Consumers should not be caught in the middle.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator