



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

September 26, 2014

The Honorable Mark Udall  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about access to local broadcast stations via DirecTV's satellite service in the Grand Junction-Montrose Designated Market Area (DMA). I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I agree that access to emergency information and local programming is an important issue for consumers. I also understand that in more rural areas of the country, satellite TV service may be the primary option for consumers. Given these issues, my staff has spoken with DirecTV and has forwarded your letter so they are aware of the concerns of your Grand Junction-Montrose constituents regarding the lack of local-into-local service. As you may know, current statutory provisions only require satellite TV providers to carry all of the broadcast stations in a particular market if the company chooses to carry at least one of the local signals.

Each of the providers – DirecTV and DISH – makes its own determination on how to allocate its channel capacity on its spot beam satellites. At this point, as you note, only DISH provides local-into-local service via satellite in all the local markets. DirecTV has opted to offer an integrated antenna-satellite dish combination to provide over-the-air reception of the local broadcast signals in 13 markets, including the Grand Junction-Montrose DMA.

Again, thank you for forwarding your concerns. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Wheeler