



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 12, 2012**

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**STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL  
REGARDING THE MEDIA BUREAU'S REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON THE  
PETITION SEEKING ELIMINATION OF THE SPORTS BLACKOUT RULE**

The following statement can be attributed to Commissioner Robert M. McDowell:

“I am delighted that the Media Bureau is requesting comment on a petition seeking elimination of the Commission’s rules that prohibit multichannel video programming distributors from carrying a sporting event in a community if it is blacked out by the local broadcast station. Taking a fresh look at this 36-year-old rule could be constructive as we look for rules to streamline and modernize. Over almost four decades, the economics and structure of both the sports and communications industries have experienced dramatic evolutions. We now live in a world with not only local broadcast stations, but also cable, satellite, the Internet and wireless, and where television and merchandizing revenues exceed ticket sales. It is appropriate for us to re-examine the rule in light of marketplace changes.”