

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in regards to my displeasure in current FCC regulations regarding the broadcast of network stations (ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, etc.). According to current regulations, satellite providers (or any television provider) are prohibited from broadcasting a non local network station.

For example, I can view KPIX Channel 5 (CBS) in San Francisco. However, I am unable to view KCBS Channel 2 (CBS) out of Los Angeles because I live outside of what is called the Designated Market Area or DMA. This is despite the fact that viewers of Satellite in LA can view KCBS (but not KPIX). The capability of receiving these non local stations is there, but because of federal FCC regulations, DISH Network, or any other satellite provider is required to scramble these non local channels on my receiver box.

I feel that this regulation is a special interest law for some private broadcasters, and not in the best interest of the public. I also think that it violates free speech in today's technological world. If I can buy the Los Angeles Times from the Bay Area, why can't I watch LA TV news. It would be the equivalent of banning the sale of the LA Times in San Francisco, or the SF Chronicle in LA.

Apparently DISH Network and Direct Tv have taken this issue all the way to the U.S. Supreme court and lost. The only way to change this FCC regulation is to write a new law. I am hoping that either you or your colleagues can find the time to write a bill regarding this issue. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Rich  
3085 Jaylee Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404