

June 12, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 98-120

Dear Chairman Martin:

As representatives of the hundreds of program networks that provide independent and diverse sources of programming to millions of consumers, we urge you to oppose imposing a multicast must carry obligation on cable operators.

Programming services such as ours have developed in response to the needs and interests of consumers – many of whom have been underserved by broadcast television. Our channels bring a wealth of programming to American television, including news and public affairs, religion, Spanish-language and other ethnic programming, family and educational programming, documentaries, sports, and general entertainment. Our success in addressing consumer needs is confirmed by the fact that more Americans today watch cable channels than the major broadcast networks combined.

We compete vigorously for distribution on cable and satellite systems on the basis of the quality of programming and its value to consumers. Broadcasters already have a government-granted competitive advantage over all other programmers – they have guaranteed cable carriage (must carry) of their primary video signal. A vast expansion of broadcasters' must carry rights would undermine our ability to compete in the marketplace, causing irreparable harm to programming diversity and to consumers, and violating fundamental First Amendment protections.

We ask that you not tip the scales of competition further in favor of broadcasters, but give us the opportunity to compete for cable and satellite distribution, and viewership. We urge you to oppose the broadcasters' bid for multicast must carry.

Sincerely,

@MAX
5StarMAX
A&E Network
ActionMAX
Africa Channel
Animal Planet
AZN Television

BBC America
BET
BET Gospel
BET J
Biography Channel
Bloomberg
Boomerang

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| Cartoon Network | HBO Zone |
| Cinemax | HGTV |
| Cinemax HD | History Channel |
| CMT: Country Music Television | History Channel en Español |
| CMT Pure Country | History International |
| CNN | Logo |
| CNN en Español | Military Channel |
| CNN International | Military History Channel |
| Comedy Central | MHD: Music High Definition Television |
| Court TV | MoreMAX |
| Crime & Investigation Network | MTV |
| C-SPAN | MTV2 |
| C-SPAN 2 | MTV Chi |
| C-SPAN 3 | MTV Desi |
| Discovery Channel | MTV Español |
| Discovery en Español | MTV K |
| Discovery HD Theater | MTVU |
| Discovery Health Channel | Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite |
| Discovery Home Channel | Nickelodeon Games & Sports |
| Discovery Kids | Nick Too |
| Discovery Kids en Español | Nick Toons |
| Discovery Times Channel | Noggin/The N |
| Discovery Travel and Living (Viajar y Vivir) | OLN |
| DIY Network (Do It Yourself) | Outdoor Channel |
| E! Entertainment | OuterMAX |
| Encore | Ovation |
| Encore Action | Oxygen Network |
| Encore Drama | PBS KIDS Sprout |
| Encore Love | Science Channel |
| Encore Mystery | Sí TV |
| Encore Wam | Spike TV |
| Encore Westerns | Starz |
| Fine Living Network | Starz Cinema |
| Fit TV | Starz Comedy |
| Food Network | Starz Edge |
| Gol TV | Starz HDTV |
| Golf Channel | Starz InBlack |
| GAC: Great American Country | Starz Kids & Family |
| GSN: The Network for Games | Style Network |
| G4TV | TBS |
| Hallmark Channel | Tempo |
| Hallmark Movie Channel | Tennis Channel |
| HBO | ThrillerMAX |
| HBO2 | TLC |
| HBO Comedy | TNT |
| HBO Family | TNT HD |
| HBO Latino | Travel Channel |
| HBO HD | Turner Classic Movies |
| HBO Signature | TV Japan |

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TV Land
TV One
VH1
VH 1 Classic

VH Uno
VH1 Soul
WMAX
Weather Channel
Weatherscan

cc: Heather Dixon
Marlene H. Dortch