

Mr. Chairman,

I writing in hopes that I can some day in the near future get the chance to watch network HDTV. Currently in Anchorage, Alaska none of the "big four" network affiliates offer HD programming. I have Dish Network and have access to HD network channels but without a waiver from my local affiliate I can't access the programming. None of the local stations will give waivers. I'm being held hostage so they can protect their advertising dollars. Maybe if these waivers were automatic then the stations would feel more compelled to offer this great service instead of dragging their feet.

By living in Alaska, I'm sure Hawaii is the same; our access to direct satellite providers is very limited. We can't pick up most of the satellites that are offered to the lower 48. It takes at least a 6 foot dish to pick up Direct TV and we can't get the new HD satellite provider VOOM. Even if we could or wanted to pay thousands to receive and install these services we still couldn't get ABC, NBC, CBS or FOX in HD.

I understand the local networks wanting to protect their ratings and advertising dollars. Not having a few people watching Monday Night Football, CBS SEC game of the week, Olympics, CSI or The Tonight Show in HD is not going to stop advertisers from spending these dollars. The impact to their ratings would be minimal at best.

PLEASE help us get waivers so we can receive HD programming. You can even repeal them when HD is available from a local affiliate.

Thank you for your time.

Steve Aldrich