

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2020

Randall L. Stephenson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
AT&T Inc.
208 S. Akard St.
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

In Nebraska, AT&T/DIRECTV has chosen not to provide local broadcast programming to all of its satellite television subscribers throughout the state. Consumers located in both the North Platte and Scottsbluff market areas lack access to local broadcast channels on your satellite platform. Instead, they receive news content that you import via distant signals from out-of-state markets.

As you know, the recently passed Satellite Television Community Protection and Promotion Act (P.L. 116-94 “STCPPA”) that became law in December 2019 seeks to incentivize satellite TV carriage of local broadcast signals in every media market nationwide, including the smaller, rural markets that AT&T/DIRECTV historically has failed to carry. Effective May 31, 2020, the STCPPA requires carriage of local broadcast stations in all 210 local markets as a precondition to be able to continue using distant signals.

Due to your company’s stated interest in the continued use of the distant signal license afforded by the Copyright Act, it is our expectation that AT&T/DIRECTV will work efficiently to carry a full complement of local broadcast channels in the North Platte and Scottsbluff media markets. It is imperative that your subscribers located in rural markets, where there is an increased reliance on satellite services, can receive local news, weather reports, and emergency alerts.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 national emergency, the availability of local broadcast programming is more important now than ever. All Nebraska residents, no matter their location, need to be able to stay informed on statewide and local efforts to combat the pandemic. Can you please update us on what steps AT&T/DIRECTV has taken since December to prepare for these changes in the North Platte and Scottsbluff market areas and to ensure our constituents can access local broadcast channels on your satellite platform?

We please request a response by Monday, May 4, 2020, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Ben Sasse
United States Senator



Adrian Smith
United States Representative