

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write today regarding the FCC's Report and Order, *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Concerning Market Modification, Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014*.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I worked closely last Congress with the Committee to ensure that the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 included a provision to create a process to petition the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow satellite providers to carry in-state signals. As you know, while the Commission has the authority to modify markets in the cable carriage context, until the STELA Reauthorization Act, the FCC could not modify markets for purposes of satellite carriage rights.

The STELA Reauthorization Act required the FCC to act by September 4, 2015 on a final order that would allow for market modifications for satellite carriers. In the act, Congress made clear its preference to provide for in-state signals. This is extremely important to Wisconsinites, as constituents in Hurley, Ashland, and Rice Lake, Wisconsin, all of which are considered part of Minnesota media markets, have expressed their frustration with not getting Wisconsin news or Packers games. Last year, these Wisconsinites missed Packers games *six times* as their media market played the Vikings game rather than the Packer game. This is scheduled to occur two times in 2015 and an undetermined number of times next year.

I appreciate the FCC's work in meeting its statutory deadline to issue this order by September 4. Now, the real work begins. Several in-state broadcast stations in Wisconsin have expressed an interest in pursuing this new avenue to provide in-state signals to all of Wisconsin. I write today to encourage you to act expeditiously on these petitions so that my constituents can watch every Packer game next season.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
U.S. Senator