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Congress of the United States  
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COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE – CHAIR  
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AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
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WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
CLIMATE CRISIS

Daniel York  
President & CEO  
Cox Media Group  
6205-B Peachtree Dunwoody Rd  
Atlanta, GA, 30328

Dear Mr. York,

I am disappointed to learn that Cox Media Group has, for the second time this year, failed to negotiate retransmission consent agreements, resulting in blackouts for my constituents and communities nationwide. As you well know, yesterday AT&T/DIRECTV removed all CMG stations from its channel lineups in twenty nationwide markets, including KIEM-NBC and KVIQ-CBS in Eureka, California, and on January 8<sup>th</sup>, the same two CMG channels were removed from Suddenlink's programming. CMG's repeated inability to prioritize the needs of its local consumers is completely unacceptable. I strongly urge you to reinstate KIEM-NBC and KVIQ-CBS by negotiating in good faith with AT&T/DIRECTV, as required by law, and that you consider the effects these repeated and unnecessary blackouts have on my constituents, your customers, and the American public.

As you know, Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, [47 U.S.C. §325(b)(3)(C)] requires that should broadcasting stations opt out of must carry status, the broadcaster along with cable and satellite operators must negotiate retransmission in "good faith." Allowing consumers to experience blackouts to enhance your negotiating leverage is not "good faith." This is the second time in just over a month that this has happened, affecting 25,869 of my constituents that rely on channels KIEM-NBC and KVIQ-CBS. As we continue to battle COVID-19, small businesses struggle to stay afloat, and we face a tense moment of democratic uncertainty, these kinds of local news sources are an indispensable resource in Eureka and across the country.

CMG's suggestion that customers switch to another cable, satellite, or streaming provider in order to regain access is poorly informed and entirely unreasonable; many of my affected constituents live in rural areas with limited access to broadband and other distributors. Furthermore, placing the burden on your customers to find alternative solutions is not only terrible business practice - it's also a grave failure to prioritize the public interest and the essential value your services provide to local communities. To make matters worse, during the Suddenlink blackout between January 8th and January 28th, a number of my constituents with the means to do so switched from Suddenlink to DIRECTV in the hopes of getting these local channels, only to lose access yet again days later.

I strongly urge you to restore access to these twenty nationwide channels immediately and proactively work to prevent interruptions of this kind in the future.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman