

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

September 5, 2014

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

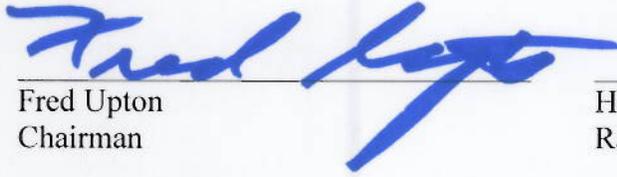
Dear Mr. Dodaro,

On March 31, 2014 the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) launched a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) seeking comment on whether the Commission should eliminate or modify the broadcast exclusivity rules for local markets, including the network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules (“local market rules”). The local market rules protect a local broadcast television station’s right to be the sole provider of network programming within a specified geographic zone and prevent a cable system or satellite operator from importing duplicative programming.

The video marketplace has changed significantly since the implementation of the local market rules and many questions remain regarding how elimination or modification of the rules would impact the marketplace and interested parties. Accordingly, we request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examine the impact of the local market rules on the availability of local broadcast programming. In particular, we request that the GAO investigate claims that eliminating or modifying the local market rules will impact the production of news and other community-oriented programming and arguments that eliminating the rules will result in less programming available on free over-the-air broadcast stations and networks. In addition, we request that the GAO inform the Committee regarding any other issues of concern that it may uncover during its examination of these issues. We believe that this report would be most useful within six months of this request.

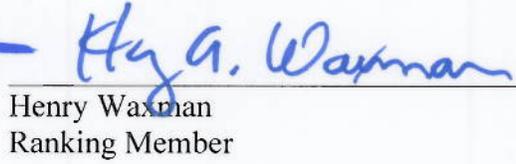
Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions about this request, please have your staff contact David Redl or Grace Koh with the majority staff at (202) 225-2927 or Shawn Chang with the minority staff at (202) 226-3400.

Sincerely,



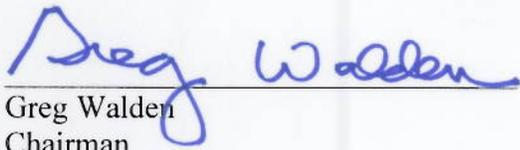
Fred Upton

Fred Upton
Chairman



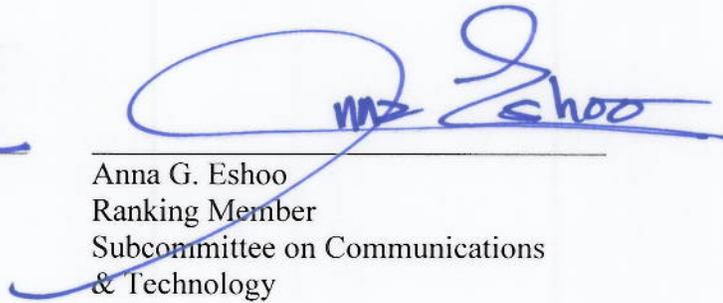
Henry Waxman

Henry Waxman
Ranking Member



Greg Walden

Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
& Technology



Anna G. Eshoo

Anna G. Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
& Technology