



For Immediate Release

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### **ATVA Statement on STELA Compromise Passage**

**Washington, D.C. May 7, 2014**— Following the release of the revised STELA legislation to be marked up at the House Energy & Commerce Committee today, the American Television Alliance released the following statement:

We applaud Chairmen Upton, Walden and Ranking Members Waxman, Eshoo and the members of the Committee for their work on this legislation. The STELA bill poised to pass the Committee is an improvement on current law and addresses some of the concerns that ATVA has voiced.

The prohibition of joint retrans negotiations is a positive development for consumers. Run-away retrans fees are piling up on consumers doorsteps and this action can help alleviate one source of this ever growing problem. Collusion should not be allowed and the Committee's actions will prevent this. The elimination of "sweeps weeks" protection removes one of the many government protections that broadcasters have that skew the marketplace.

We encourage the Committee to continue to explore and address the facts in the retransmission consent regime, remove more of the broadcasters' government granted marketplace advantages and address them more comprehensively in the Communications Act update.

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*The American Television Alliance (ATVA) brings together an unprecedented coalition of consumer groups, cable, satellite, telephone companies, and independent programmers to raise awareness about the risk viewers face as broadcasters increasingly threaten service disruptions that would deny viewers access to the programs they and their families enjoy.*

For more information about ATVA, visit our [website](#). Follow us on Twitter [@ATVAlliance](#).