

Dear (Insert Name of Congressional Representative or Senator):

As a video customer of Hardy Telecommunications' OneNet service in Hardy County, W.Va., I am upset at the outdated laws and regulations that create an unfair playing field in favor of broadcasters over rural video programming distributors like Hardy. We do not understand how any negotiations can be considered "good faith" or a marketplace considered fair when a Hardy County video provider is effectively barred from carrying a West Virginia station because it is "out of market" for the area. How can Hardy County residents be told that they are in the Washington, D.C., designated market area for local programming, and no locally accessible West Virginia stations are included in that market? If video programming distributors have no choice when negotiating for broadcast signals and are forced by law toward a single seller, how can that be considered a fair market or even any "market" at all?

We have learned how Hardy Telecommunications is hampered by outdated laws that are badly in need of retransmission consent reform. There are several areas that we feel are unfair burdens to Hardy Telecommunications and video consumers:

- Mandatory non-disclosure requirements prevent Hardy from revealing and customers from seeing market value pricing. Consumers should be allowed to see per-channel pricing charged by broadcasters to their local video distributor.
- Broadcasters should not have the right to restrict video programming distributors from accessing local content due to designated market area restraints. Again, how can it be fair that an area like Hardy County in West Virginia is considered "out of market" for West Virginia stations? In the same vein, video distributors should not be forced to carry and pay heavily for out-of-state stations that have no interest or value to consumers in their service territory because those channels somehow are considered "in market," even though they offer no local coverage whatsoever.
- Broadcasters should not be able to force video distributors to carry numerous other channels in order to get the few channels that consumers really want. Consumers should be able to choose what channels they want and pay accordingly, and video distributors should not be forced into stacking countless channels into tiers and charging all customers in those tiers for unwanted channels. Consumers and video programming distributors should have the right to choose and pay for channels a la carte based on customer choice.

We respectfully request that you address these fundamentally flawed retransmission consent and video marketplace laws and regulations that punish rural West Virginia residents and rural video programming providers like Hardy Telecommunications. It's a simple matter of fairness for rural West Virginia citizens. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

(Your name)