

December 12, 2005

The Honorable Ted Stevens
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

As representatives of some of the hundreds of program networks that provide a wide variety of diverse programming selections for millions of American consumers, we urge you to oppose government regulation of the packaging and pricing of cable and satellite television programming.

Program networks such as ours were developed in response to the increasingly diverse demands and interests of consumers. We provide audiences with a wealth of programming options, including news and public affairs, religious, Spanish-language and other ethnic programming, family and educational programming, children's programming, documentaries, sports, music, and general entertainment.

In order to produce the quality programming now available to 85 percent of U.S. consumers, our programming services generally depend on revenue from license fees paid by cable and satellite carriers and advertising revenue. This economic model has been tremendously successful in improving both the quality and quantity of television programming available today. Government mandated packaging regulations, and in particular a pay per channel requirement, would undermine this model, cause the demise of many existing networks, and hinder the creation of new ones.

The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) comprehensive October 2003 report confirmed that mandating a la carte or tiering could alter cable networks' business model, resulting in reduced advertising revenues, higher per-channel rates and less diversity in program choice. Small and independent networks, as well as those serving niche audiences would, in fact, be unlikely to survive in this environment.

We know from experience that the marketplace spurs innovation and that unnecessary government regulation stifles growth and innovation. Mandatory packaging or a la carte regulation would significantly reduce program diversity, consumer choice, and likely increase

consumer prices. It would also raise significant First Amendment questions. We therefore respectfully urge you to oppose proposals for such government regulation.

Sincerely,

A&E Network	ESPN	Lime Television
ABC Family	ESPN Classic	Logo
Africa Channel	ESPN Deportes	Military Channel
Animal Planet	ESPN HD	Military History Channel
AZN Television	ESPN2	MTV
BBC America	ESPN2 HD	National Geographic
BET	ESPNEWS	Channel
BET Gospel	ESPNU	National Geographic HD
BET Jazz	Fine Living	Nickelodeon
Biography Channel	FIT TV	Noggin
Black Family Channel	Food Network	Outdoor Life Network
Boomerang	Fox College Sports	Ovation
Cartoon Network	Fox Movie Channel	Oxygen Network
CNN	Fox Reality	Science Channel
CNN en Español	Fox Soccer Channel	Shop at Home
CNN Headline News	Fox Sports Networks	Sí TV
CNN International	Fox Sports en Español	SoapNet
Comedy Central	FUEL TV	SPEED Channel
CMT - Country Music Television	G4 - Videogame Television	Spike TV
Court TV	Golf Channel	Style Network
Crime and Investigation Network	Great American Country	Sun Sports
C-SPAN Networks	GSN - The Network for Games	TBS
Discovery Channel	Hallmark Channel	TLC
Discovery en Español	Hallmark Movie Channel	TNT
Discovery HD Theater	HGTV	TNT HD
Discovery Health	History Channel	Toon Disney
Discovery Home	History en Español	Travel Channel
Discovery Kids	History International	Turner Classic Movies
Discovery Kids en Español	i-LifeTV – Inspirational Life	Turner South
Discovery Times	Television	TV Land
Discovery Travel & Living	INSP – The Inspiration Network	TV One
(Viajar y Vivir)	La Familia Cosmvision	VH1
Disney Channel	Lifetime Movie Network	Weather Channel
DIY Network (Do It Yourself)	Lifetime Real Women	Weatherscan
E! Entertainment Television	Lifetime Television	