


Clairton, PA 15025

January 10, 1997

Mr. Sean McGorry, General Manager
TCI of PA - South Hills
5211 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

RE: PREEMPTION/INTERRUPTION OF C-SPAN PROGRAMMING

Dear Mr. McGorry,

I've been a TCI subscriber for over five years, and have been, until recently, very satisfied with your services and broadcast menu. However, the interruptions of C-SPAN programming--I've called on several previous occasions to protest football and basketball games which were broadcast on the C-SPAN channel--are continuing to a point of exasperation. Beginning January 5, you initiated broadcasting of "Kid's Time TV" from 7am-9am on the C-SPAN channel (22), which prevents the airing of the best news and journalist program on cable TV, namely, WASHINGTON JOURNAL. I was also informed that a similar, if not the same program, is being broadcast from 3pm-5pm on the C-SPAN channel, preempting live coverage of activities on the House Floor.

During my most recent call to TCI to protest this new interruption, I was told that the C-SPAN channel was the only "lease" channel you had. What may I ask is the purpose of Channel 13, where nothing but a blue screen appears almost all of the time? What about Channel 2, which is nothing but movie advertisements? Both of these useless channels are listed as "Basic" service, which I pay for, but they show nothing.

Although I live in an apartment, I intend to petition the Manager/Owners to allow tenants to purchase satellite dishes so that I can drop TCI cable. I know of no other way to receive uninterrupted C-SPAN coverage. However, if TCI were willing to put C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 onto the "premium" selection list (like HBO, Disney, etc.), I would gladly pay for such dedicated service at equivalent prices.

That TCI is failing in its' responsibility to the community to provide such an important service as C-SPAN and C-SPAN2, without interruption, is truly disappointing. If preemption of C-SPAN is the result of the 1996 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT, then perhaps it should be revisited and amended accordingly.

*O. cable
carrage*

Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Thomas Bliley, Chairman, House Commerce Committee
Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Ms. Meridith Jones, Bureau Chief, Cable Services Bureau, FCC
Mr. Brian Lamb, Chief Executive Officer, C-SPAN
The Honorable John McCain, Chairman, Commerce, Science and Technology Committee
The Honorable Rick Santorum