

[REDACTED]
EAST LOST LAKE
UNDERWOOD, MINNESOTA 56586

28 May 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
Chairman and CEO
C-SPAN

400 North Capitol St N.W. Suite 650
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

My wife + I are permanent residents of Middleburg Virginia. We spend 5 months at our lake home. We miss C-SPAN!

I enclose a photocopy of my letter to the Editor of the major newspaper in Stafford County. I resorted to this after trying for 3 years to interest TeleStar Television in presenting C-SPAN. To date. Hence the six County area is in a public affairs desert devoid of the best in television.

I am aware that local cable operators have the option to show C-SPAN.

Wish you could - can help.

Sincerely,

cc: Peter Kiley

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► LETTERS

Rural viewers deserve C-SPAN

Before it begins its traditional Memorial Day recess, the United States House of Representatives is scheduled to consider President Clinton's tax bill. Unless one has access to C-SPAN, the details of the debate on the floor of the House of Representatives will not be covered by the print or electronic media, except for 30-second sound bites.

Residents of Fergus Falls who subscribe to TCI of Central Minnesota will have a distinct advantage over other residents of Otter Tail County. Households receiving cable television from TekStar will be forced to rely on print or electronic media for sketchy details of one of the most significant and far-reaching legislative proposals emanating from the Congress in years. Everyone will feel the impact if Clinton's proposal becomes law.

In the United States, approximately 60 million households are able to receive C-SPAN and its companion, C-SPAN 2, offered by 4,000 cable companies. Why does TekStar not offer this superb educational program to its over 13,000 subscribers in its six-county area? Those subscribers cannot observe the machinations of the legislative process.

"So what?" many will say and grouse about how their government operates. If one has never had the opportunity to watch C-SPAN coverage, how can they be expected to request TekStar to offer C-SPAN, even for a trial basis. These are critical times, and everyone deserves the best education he can obtain about public affairs.

The Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network is a private non-profit venture of the cable television industry. It does not receive funds from the government; it is funded by cable systems that offer the network to their customers.

In addition to providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House of Representatives, C-SPAN offers viewer call-in programs; significant events of the day; Congressional committee hearings and other public events of interest to the public. A companion to C-SPAN, C-SPAN 2 covers the live sessions of the United States Senate in their entirety.

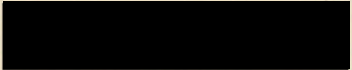
Cable television subscribers outside of Fergus Falls deserve the same public affairs education as those in the Fergus Falls area who are on TCI. Will those on the outside ever receive C-SPAN? Not likely unless TekStar subscribers request it. Hopefully there are enough people interested who will request C-SPAN in order to be better informed and alert to congressional activities.

Underwood



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