

[REDACTED]  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78745

Dear C-SPAN:

I watch C-SPAN because...

...it is the only access that ordinary citizens such as myself have to the great councils that devise and implement the policies of our government. Where else can the ordinary citizen hear and see ~~to~~ the full text of important testimony, presentations and debates, neither directed to, nor filtered through the national mass media? I have heard a former National Security Advisor address the Naval Academy on foreign policy, professional political polsters discussing the technical aspects of their trade, and heard the many intelligent and insightful questions phoned in by the national audience. It is no exaggeration to say that C-SPAN is an electronic gridwork that strengthens the fabric of our democratic process. I have heard callers, who by their comments, reveal that they represent every point in the political spectrum, give praise to C-SPAN for their fine service. Best of all, you allow the principals to speak for themselves, mercifully free of the "commentary" of the self-designated media experts.

I feel I am an intelligent and well informed individual. I very much resent the pre-packaged

opinions of media commentators of every political stripe, who after a fifteen second excerpt from a newsmaker's comments, spends three minutes telling me what he or she really meant. I greatly prefer the content of C-SPAN, which gives me so much more information: because it is television, I can observe the context in which the presentation takes place, and not be limited to the literal content of the transcript.

C-SPAN leaks no secrets that are not proper topics for open broadcast. It does however, expand the public record immensely.

The productions of C-SPAN do much to dispel my fear of some shadowy, faceless "system" that operates by its own rules in far-away Washington. Instead, I watch the sometimes boring, sometimes exciting hearings, luncheons, and speeches that are the substance of much of the political life of our government. It is a reassuringly human endeavor.

Your audience will never be large, but it will be important. I get the sense that more and more, important people who have a message for the American public are seeking out C-SPAN. I watch C-SPAN because it is a record of the real-life activities of government; the real nitty-gritty.

This is something that newspapers, magazines,  
and TV journalism do not supply.

Keep up the good work.

I will keep watching.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

P.S. I called your Washington office one time to  
ask a question about one of your programs, and was  
most graciously recieved. I have been meaning to  
write ever since. It was the chance for a trip to  
D.C. that lit a fire under me.

I watch C-SPAN on Austin Cable-Vision

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