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Gold River, California 95670
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October 20, 1993

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

Dear Congressman Markey:

I am very concerned about the consequences of the Cable Act that was passed over President Bush's veto last year. I have voiced my concerns to my own congressmen prior to the Act's coming into effect on October 1, but to no avail. As I feared, my ability to witness important Senate actions is significantly limited. My cable company now ceases C-Span 2 coverage at 5 p.m. which means that today's extended live floor debate on amendments to the Defense Appropriations bill dealing with Somalia and Haiti would not have been covered had the Leader not postponed the vote to tomorrow morning. However, I would have had the option of seeing one of four home shopping networks that have replaced C-Span 2 on the channel queue.

For this wonderful change in selection, I do not blame my cable company, Sacramento Cable, who has gone to all lengths to try to retain C-Span 2 for its Sacramento viewers. However, it has been forced to retain a Christian network while a court suit is litigated, and due to the Cable Act's requirements, it must use the remaining channels for such wonders of the commercial media spectrum as MTV, QVC and its cousins, and other "no brainers" that flood the air waves today. Is it any wonder that we have the kind of passive population that only the creators of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" or Karl Marx could love?

I am only grateful that C-Span is still covered without interruption in my area. It was almost not so in the Bay Area when Viacom threatened to share C-Span's air time with, of all things, the Playboy Channel! I would like to think that it was due to concerned citizens like myself that convinced them to continue to carry this basic channel (albeit begrudgingly) in San Francisco. That was only half a measure however, as while C-Span was allowed to live, its companion network, C-Span 2 suffered its fate in shared time. I wonder if Viacom was enjoying a sick sense of humor by having the Senate share time with Playboy?

I would appreciate hearing what actions, if any, your committee intends to take to resolve these and other concerns regarding rates? Again, Sac Cable has provided good and fair service to the community and I have no complaints with this company or their new rates. My issue and extreme frustration is directed at the unintended, but nevertheless unfortunate, consequences of the Congress' legislation.

Sincerely,



cc: Rep. Richard Pombo
Rep. Tom Lantos
✓ Brian Lamb, CEO, C-Span
Sacramento Cable, Customer Service Manager

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