

September 15, 1993

[REDACTED]  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Mr. Brian Lamb, Chairman  
C-SPAN Network  
400 N. Capital St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

As you can see from the attached letter to Western TV Cable, I have been actively trying to get my beloved C-SPAN back on a 24-hour schedule.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to each member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. I have also written my local newspapers and am planning to contact the League of Women Voters to enlist their support.

If you have any suggestions as to how I might proceed in my efforts to expand viewer access to C-SPAN, please let me know.

Sincerely yours, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Enclosures



September 15, 1993

[REDACTED]  
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

Supervisor Mike Nevin  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
County Government Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Supervisor Nevin:

I am writing to request that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors take action to insure that the public affairs channels of C-Span 1 and C-Span 2 are made available to all of our citizens.

In a recent realignment of its channels, Western TV Cable has seen fit to reduce C-Span offerings by half and have relegated them to the hours of 3 am to 3 pm. Pacific Cable has recently cut C-Span 2 to a 12 hour schedule and had previously eliminated them entirely. Western Cabled Systems offers no C-Span at all to subscribers in Central San Mateo. Westar Cable TV carries only C-Span 1.

I am sure that you are aware of the invaluable service provided to the community by the C-Span network. As I have outlined in the attached letter to the President of Western TV Cable, I feel that the cable companies have a duty to serve the public interest in return for their exclusive rights to bring cable into our homes.

As the electronic media are becoming the dominant news source for America, it is essential that cable provide thorough non-partisan coverage of the governmental process. If our democracy is to thrive, an informed public must have access to the workings of its government. Only the C-Span network meets this challenge.

It is my understanding that the Board of Supervisors issues the rights of franchise to the cable companies of San Mateo County. In this capacity you are, therefore, guardians and gatekeepers of the flow of information into San Mateo County households. I believe you would agree that we are all ill served if our principal source of information denies us access to our own government process.

I have spoken to representatives of Western TV Cable



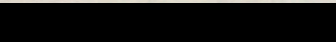
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Board of Supervisors

and they have told me that C-Span was chosen for reduction because of its limited popularity. Politics and government will never have the commercial appeal of HBO or the Playboy Channel. But if we agree that our democracy is worth nurturing, then we have no choice but to allow each citizen access to the halls of power.

I am requesting, therefore, that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors implement a policy that requires all cable franchisees to serve the public good by carrying both C-Span channels on a 24-hour basis.

Sincerely yours,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Enclosure



September 15, 1993

  
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

Ms Marilyn Clarin, President  
Western TV Cable  
146 So. Spruce Avenue  
South San Francisco, Ca. 94080-9967

Dear Ms Clarin:

I am writing to express my great disappointment with your recent decision to cut back the transmission of C-Span 1 and C-Span 2 on Western TV Cable.

As non-partisan public affairs channels, C-Span 1 and 2 provide an irreplaceable service to the American electorate. In a day when more and more citizens rely on electronic media for their information, it is essential that non-biased reporting on government be made readily available. If our democracy is to thrive, we need to have an informed and involved citizenry and the ability to monitor the activities of our elected officials.

I believe that cable companies which hold exclusive franchises on the purveyance of information into American households have a strict duty to serve the public interest. I know that you have many demands by many constituencies to carry programs which appeal to various ethnic, religious and special interest groups and you must attempt to balance their needs with your own economic realities. However, I think you would agree that all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status, are in fact affected by the actions and policies of the government. C-Span programs have relevance to the lives of all of your viewers, not just to a particular segment of the population.

I have been told by your customer service representatives that C-Span 1 and 2 are not popular among your subscribers. This is difficult for me to believe since I know many, many viewers. I strongly believe, however, that the decision to remove C-Span should not be made on a purely economic basis. Apathy and cynicism among American voters is a serious problem and can only be made worse by the lack of unbiased information on our governmental process. As holders of a franchise granted by the American people, you have a responsibility, I believe, to serve the public interest.



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Ms. Marilyn Clarin

I have been in contact with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and with other elected officials to inform them of these concerns. I hope that, as President of Western TV Cable, you will give serious consideration to this issue and I will look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

cc: C-Span  
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors