



Minority Media & Telecommunications Council
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June 21, 2007

Hon. John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell and Representative Barton:

RE: Family and Consumer Choice Act

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) opposes any requirement that cable systems and direct broadcast satellite companies sell channels to subscribers on an a la carte basis. In particular, Congress should not enact the "Family and Consumer Choice Act" introduced by Reps. Dan Lipinski and Jeff Fortenberry.

MMTC, founded in 1986, is the nation's leading advocate for diversity of ownership and employment in the electronic mass media.

The beauty of multi-channel cable and satellite is that they offer exposure to new and previously unfamiliar channel offerings. New multicultural channels – many of which are minority-controlled – are in various stages of development or distribution. To earn consumers' loyalty, these channels must become familiar to consumers. That is impossible with a la carte, which precludes channel surfing, thus rendering multicultural channels commercially unsustainable.

Our nation's success as a pluralistic society depends profoundly on diversity in the media. New multicultural channels offer the best hope of enhancing the viewpoints, cultural and language diversity available to the American people. By locking out new multicultural channels, a la carte would deprive the next generation of viewers of a broad spectrum of programming and opinions.

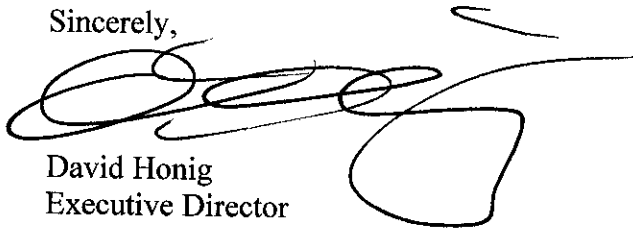
Hon. John Dingell

Hon. Joe Barton

June 21, 2007

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Honig". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Honig
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Daniel Inouye
Hon. Ted Stevens
Hon. Edward Markey
Hon. Fred Upton

/dh