



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

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October 22, 2010

Hon. Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: News Corp.- Cablevision Retransmission Consent Dispute**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to urge you to protect millions of cable television consumers, including 250,000 Connecticut households, from continuing to be harmed by the loss of important programming as a result of the continuing contract dispute between News Corp. and Cablevision.

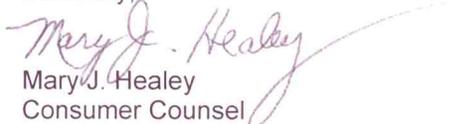
This dispute will have ensued for a week as of midnight tonight and the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) had hoped that the matter would have been successfully resolved as of this time. We note that Commissioner Copps recently released a statement on this matter focusing on consumer protection issues, stating the following, "[i]f such talks ['good faith' negotiations] are not taking place, we should move promptly to protect consumers". The OCC wholeheartedly agrees with Commissioner Copps.

Under Connecticut law, the OCC is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility consumers, including the state's cable television customers. The OCC has appeared before the FCC in the past and regularly interacts through its national association, NASUCA.

The OCC believes that your Commission has the legal authority to protect consumers in situations involving the carriage of broadcast signals by cable television providers. Like the OCC, the FCC is charged with safeguarding consumer interests and the OCC urges the FCC to take action in this case. It appears from recent history that this type of situation is part of an ongoing industry battle that requires federal intervention.

Accordingly, I respectfully ask you to exercise the Commission's authority to protect cable television consumers from further programming disruption by ensuring the immediate restoration of broadcast programming and overseeing a process for News Corp. and Cablevision to reach a final resolution of this dispute. We would hope that the FCC would treat this matter on an expedited basis to best serve the public interest.

Sincerely,

  
Mary J. Healey  
Consumer Counsel

Cc: Commissioner Michael Copps, FAX 202-418-2802  
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