



The voice of mid-size communications companies

July 21, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Notice in MB Docket No. 10-71, Amendment of the Commission's Rules Related to Retransmission Consent**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 17, 2015, Jill Canfield and Steve Pastorkovich of NTCA, Angie Kronenberg of COMPTTEL, and the undersigned participated in a telephone conversation with Gigi Sohn and Crystal Evans in Chairman Wheeler's office to discuss reform of the Commission's retransmission consent rules. We observed that in addition to the various proceedings relating to retransmission consent and access to video content that are pending before the Commission, the Commission's examination of the good faith standard pursuant to the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 ("STELAR") provides an opportunity for the Commission to provide meaningful relief for video programming distributors and consumers with respect to outdated video policies that have tilted the playing field in favor of broadcasters during retransmission consent negotiations. We noted that the take-it-or-leave-it negotiation tactics engaged in by broadcasters are particularly harmful to smaller providers (and their customers), who are forced to accede to unreasonable demands due to their lack of bargaining leverage in negotiations. We also discussed the Commission's legal authority to take action to address anti-competitive behavior by broadcasters and other programmers that have led to the rising costs of video content for consumers of video programming.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micah M. Caldwell".

Micah M. Caldwell  
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Gigi Sohn  
Crystal Evans