

David K. Rehr
President and CEO



February 2, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Boucher
U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Boucher:

On behalf of America's broadcasters and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Television Board of Directors, thank you for working to ensure that millions of Americans are able to successfully switch to digital television (DTV) and for your efforts to help consumers receive converter box coupons prior to the transition date.

As you know, America's full-power television stations have been working for the last two years to educate Americans about the switch to all-digital broadcasting. The DTV transition is the highest television priority of NAB, as broadcast networks and television stations across the country have contributed more than \$1 billion to educate Americans on the impending switch.

Free over-the-air broadcasting is an important part of American life. Broadcasters understand this as well as the need to ensure that Americans are both prepared and equipped to make the switch to digital. To this end, we support your efforts to give viewers and the federal government more time to get ready for all-digital broadcasting. As you know, many Americans are already enjoying the benefits of digital television. Indeed, some markets have already commenced digital-only operations, some stations are already digital-only and other stations will need to cease analog operations on February 17 or sometime before June 12.

It is important that stations have the flexibility to go all digital before the new cutoff date. We understand that Congress does not intend to require stations to continue analog broadcasting just because the date is changing. Nor does it

1771 N Street NW
Washington DC 20036 2800
Phone 202 429 5449
Fax 202 429 5410
www.nab.org

intend to have the Federal Communications Commission impose additional requirements on stations by either changing the current streamlined procedures for notifying the agency that the station is terminating analog service or insisting on 30 day notification for stations that would not have been required to provide notice if the date had not changed.

We appreciate your focus on flexibility for stations so that they can determine how best to provide the vital news, weather alerts and emergency information that free, local television provides to its viewers.

We hope the House will pass the legislation that was unanimously approved by the Senate. Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David K. Rehr".

David K. Rehr

cc: Ranking Member Barton, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Stearns, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on
Communications, Technology and the Internet