

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hearing on “Satellite Video 101”
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
February 13, 2013

Today’s hearing marks the beginning of the Energy and Commerce Committee’s consideration of reauthorization and updates to the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 or STELA.

STELA is the most recent in a series of laws that permit satellite providers to offer broadcast programming to their subscribers. Americans across the country have benefited from these actions taken by Congress.

We have fostered the development of satellite as a viable competitor in the video market, preserved and expanded access to local broadcast content, and ensured compensation for the creators whose work compels consumers to seek out these video services in the first place.

Many of our members are new to this Committee since our last consideration of these issues during the 111th Congress. Under the leadership of former subcommittee Chairman Rick Boucher, our committee’s consideration of STELA was a bipartisan legislative effort from start to finish.

Although STELA was the work product of two committees, I was especially proud of the fact that the provisions within Energy and Commerce jurisdiction were completed on time and without controversy. Chairman Walden, it is my hope that our work this Congress will proceed in the same bipartisan manner.

We began our efforts in the 111th Congress with the expectation that Congress would pursue a clean reauthorization of the expiring provisions of the law. Even with that limited scope, however, the reauthorization was not completed in a timely manner.

Some stakeholders have suggested that Congress examine broader issues in the video marketplace as part of the reauthorization. I am open to those conversations, but I urge my colleagues to recognize what a complicated task we have ahead of us and to be wary of getting sidetracked by disputes about other topics.

Thank you to our panel of witnesses for appearing today. We look forward to your testimony and your continued engagement as we move forward with our consideration of this reauthorization.