

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2010

Allan H. (Bud) Selig, Commissioner
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
On behalf of the Joint Sports Claimants
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New York, NY 10167

Dan Glickman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Motion Picture Association of America
1600 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Michael D. White
Chief Executive Officer
DirecTV
2230 East Imperial Highway
El Segundo, CA 90245

Mike Mountford
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National Programming Service
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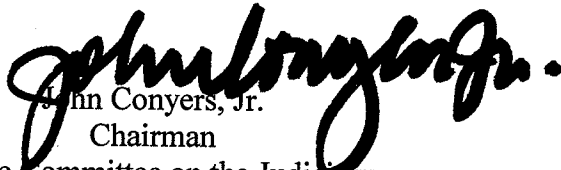
Dear Gentlemen,

Section 119 of the Copyright Act and related statutory provisions, which provide satellite carriers legal authority to retransmit broadcast signals to hundreds of thousands of viewers, are slated to expire after midnight on Sunday, February 28. Congress is working to enact a five year, comprehensive re-authorization of these and related provisions of law (currently entitled the "Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act," or "STELA"), the language of which has been agreed to and is ready for action by the full Congress. Absent an appropriate legislative vehicle for the comprehensive measure, Congress may enact a short, temporary extension – as was done in December 2009.

There is a possibility disputes not germane to the copyright law or satellite television may prevent Congress from enacting STELA or a short-term temporary extension before expiration. As the leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, we write to urge all parties – satellite television operators, broadcasters, networks, and copyright holders alike – to temporarily maintain the *status quo* in such an event in order to avoid disrupting the provision of "lifeline" network programming to hundreds of thousands of Americans. Should this occur, we intend to include a lookback provision in STELA to ensure that parties whose conduct was permitted under the law and regulation in effect immediately prior to expiration are held harmless. We appreciate your cooperation in our request and expect to work closely with you in the days and weeks ahead.

Allan H. (Bud) Selig
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Mike Mountford
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Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary



Lamar Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary



Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)
Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)
The Copyright Alliance
The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)
U.S. Copyright Office