

Holt Urges FCC to Intervene in News Corps-Cablevision Dispute

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(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt today wrote the Chair and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), urging immediate action to bring a resolution to the dispute between News Corps and Cablevision, which has led to tens of thousands of New Jersey viewers being unable to watch programs on Fox, including NFL games and Major League Baseball playoff action. Holt urged the FCC to step in and bring the parties together to resolve the dispute.

“Last week, I sent letters to each party in the dispute to ensure that the consumers were not the victims of this dispute through the loss of programming. Unfortunately, an agreement was not reached, and at this point there is no indication that the parties are making progress on reaching a resolution, thus intensifying the risk that my constituents will continue to suffer a loss of access to programs they enjoy,” Holt wrote in the letter.

A copy of the letter is below:

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing to urge immediate action to bring a resolution to the current dispute between News Corp and Cablevision that is resulting in my constituents not being able to see important programming.

Last week, I sent letters to each party in the dispute to ensure that the consumers were not the victims of this dispute through the loss of programming. Unfortunately, an agreement was not reached, and at this point there is no indication that the parties are making progress on reaching a resolution, thus intensifying the risk that my constituents will continue to suffer a loss of access to programs they enjoy.

As the FCC is the agency responsible for overseeing the retransmission consent process and charged with the obligation to ensure that broadcasters act in the public interest, I ask that you use all available means (including arbitration or mediation) to bring the parties together to resolve this dispute as swiftly as possible. I would appreciate it if you could advise of your intent in this regard at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt

Member of Congress

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