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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0606

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APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
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Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As you are probably aware, on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at approximately 8:45 AM MST, a fire broke out in the KREX-TV studios, and destroyed the entire operation. The station's CBS and Fox feeds went off the air around 10:30 a.m. KREX-TV reaches more than 117,000 households.

The national CBS and Fox feeds are currently airing on the local cable provider, Bresnan Communications, while Dish Network has not found any replacements. (DirecTV currently does not offer Grand Junction local programming.) Due to the high penetration of satellite in this area, most of the area's residents lost access to CBS and FOX programming. Cable and satellite are all but essential for acceptable television in much of western Colorado due to the market's rugged terrain. The fire also knocked out programming to KREX's satellites and massive translator network, as they either were controlled from KREX's studios, or fed off of the source originating at KREX's transmitter.

Because of this unfortunate event, I have thousands of constituents who live in isolated areas and cannot access CBS and FOX programming. I am requesting that you and the Commission do everything in your power to assist these individuals. I would appreciate it if you would expedite any emergency measures available to the Commission for getting CBS and FOX programming to this area as soon as possible, including allowing temporary distant signal importation for the local satellite networks that serve these communities. I would also appreciate your support for KREX as they begin the long process of rebuilding their facilities.

Sincerely,



Wayne Allard
United States Senator

CC: Monica Desai
Chief of Media for FCC

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