



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

July 5, 2019

Randall Stephenson
CEO
AT&T
208 South Akard Street
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Perry A. Sook
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
545 E. John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Dear Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Sook:

I write regarding the new retransmission consent dispute between your companies, which has resulted in the blackout of WTNH News 8 and WCTX MyTV9 for AT&T/DirecTV customers in the Hartford-New Haven market.

While I take no definitive position supporting either side, I believe that the current denial of service to Connecticut families is unfair and unnecessary. I strongly urge you to negotiate in good faith to reach an agreement – and immediately provide carriage of WTNH and WCTX through at least August 2, 2019 as requested by Nexstar. This extension will allow parties sufficient time to come to an agreement without barring AT&T/DirecTV consumers from viewing their local news coverage. This cutoff seems to have the sole purpose of enhancing DirecTV bargaining leverage - with severe harm to Connecticut consumers.

Also, although I understand that AT&T/DirecTV is reluctant to pay more for the same programming, Connecticut consumers understandably value Connecticut-based journalism and broadcasting. The public interest is best served by returning carriage of WTNH and WCTX to all Connecticut residents as early as possible.

In the meantime, I ask that DirecTV commit to refund all affected subscribers a portion of their monthly bill commensurate with WTNH and WCTX's value.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator