

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

July 8, 2019

Mr. Randall Stephenson
Chairman and CEO
AT&T, Inc.
208 South Akard Street
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Perry A. Sook
President and CEO
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
540 East John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Dear Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Sook:

As you know, many communities across the United States, including communities in my home state of South Dakota, have experienced television blackouts because of a failed retransmission consent negotiation between AT&T/DIRECTV and Nexstar.

It is in the public interest to return the carriage of KELO-TV and KCLO-TV to customers in the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Designated Market Areas as soon as possible. Unfortunately, such disputes have become too common in recent years – often harming consumers who rely on the critical services provided by local broadcasting, like important weather and safety updates.

I therefore ask that your respective companies negotiate in good faith to reach an agreement expeditiously, and I strongly encourage AT&T/DIRECTV to provide carriage of KELO-TV and KCLO-TV through August 2, 2019, as requested by Nexstar, so that the parties can continue negotiations without impacting consumers' ability to view their local news coverage in the affected broadcast markets.

Thank you both for your attention and consideration of this time-sensitive matter. I also look forward to working with both of you to explore ways to ensure that television blackouts do not occur in the future, as Congress once again examines the law governing retransmission consent.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator