



October 23, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
425 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wicker and Cantwell –

We are writing to you on behalf of a community that spends some portion of their lives traveling around the country in recreational vehicles. Our associations represent the manufacturers, dealers and owners of RVs as well as the campgrounds they visit. It is unusual for us to be writing to Congress regarding video issues, but it has come to our attention that, absent congressional action, many RV consumers will lose their access to network television signals.

By way of introduction, The RV Industry Association is the national trade association representing approximately 400 RV manufacturers and component and aftermarket parts suppliers who together fuel an industry that has an overall economic impact to the US economy of \$114 billion; supporting nearly 600,000 jobs, contributing more than \$32 billion in wages, and paying over \$12 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. RVDA – the national RV Dealers Association – is dedicated to advancing RV retailers' interests through education and member services programs designed to enhance the RV travel experience. The National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC) is the only national association exclusively representing the interests of private RV parks and campgrounds in the U.S. FMCA is the world's largest not-for-profit association for recreation vehicle (RV) owners, with more than 150,000 members. Escapees RV Club is one of the largest recreational vehicle owners clubs serving approximately 70,000 RV enthusiasts.

As you may know, when RV families are on the road for weeks or months at a time, many of them receive multi-channel television service from satellite providers DIRECTV and Dish Network. Because

they move from one local television market to another, it is not possible for them to receive the same local signals that satellite subscribers receive at home. Instead, they receive Distant Network Signals under the license granted in Section 119 of the Copyright Act. This allows them to access sports and entertainment programming as well as national news.

We are aware that the Section 119 license is set to expire at the end of the year unless Congress acts to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension, Localism and Reauthorization (STELAR) Act, portions of which are in your committee's jurisdiction. Our associations generally would not insert themselves into a fight between large satellite television companies and large broadcasters; however, the loss of access to network signals would have a significant negative impact on the quality of life for many RV families. We would emphasize that most RVers have cable or satellite subscriptions at their fixed homes, and that they are already paying once for each of the four national networks; in accessing distant network signals, they pay an additional fee to the networks through the Section 119 license. We are simply asking that they continue to be allowed to do so.

Accordingly, we are writing to urge your committee to adopt legislation reauthorizing STELAR, so that the Section 119 license can be renewed, and, ideally, made permanent, at least for RV users. We look forward to your response, which we will share with our members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Landers  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
RV Industry Association

Phil Ingrassia  
President  
RV Dealers Association

Paul Bambei  
President and CEO  
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC)

Jon Walker  
National President  
FMCA

Shawn Loring  
CEO and Attorney  
Escapes RV Club

Cc: Members, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation