

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street Northeast  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

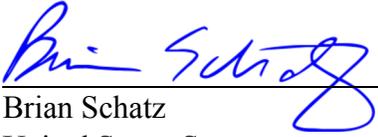
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should take an active role in expediting the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television standard, or ATSC 3.0. The Next Gen TV standard is essential to the continued vitality and competitiveness of local television broadcasters' free, local, and trusted service in our communities. This pro-consumer, innovative technology will allow local stations to better serve their viewers with improved pictures and sound, interactive features, including expanded local news, advanced emergency alerting, and the ability to deliver to viewers the content that is most relevant to them, when they want it, where they want it.

In the nearly seven years since broadcasters and the consumer electronics industry jointly petitioned the FCC to begin a voluntary transition to this new standard, major marketplace advancements have been made. Already, more than 60% of Americans have access to Next Gen TV. And, while local markets continue to launch every month, many outstanding markets face challenges like capital and spectrum constraints, particularly in rural and urban markets, respectively. At the same time, the video marketplace has evolved, and it is now a competitive imperative for video platforms to deliver ultra-high-definition (4K) programming. If broadcasters cannot compete for high-value, 4K sports programming for example, and it instead flows to tech platforms, broadcasters' proven, decades-long investment in local news content will be undermined and, most important, viewers will lose a competitive option that is available for free over the air.

Accordingly, a successful ATSC 3.0 transition should be a priority of the FCC going forward to ensure that local broadcasters can continue to best serve their communities as a trusted source of local news. Just as the FCC has successfully championed other innovative technologies like 5G, Wi-Fi, and the 2009 digital TV transition, we believe there is an essential role for the FCC in helping broadcasters and viewers fully realize the potential of Next Gen TV. We urge the FCC to take an active role in addressing the complex – but imminently solvable – questions posed by the transition from ATSC 1.0 to 3.0, including working with Congress, public broadcasters, and industry to ensure consumers with legacy TVs are not harmed by any changes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



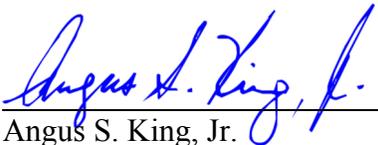
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Mike Braun  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator

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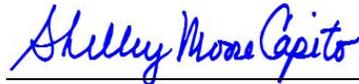
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John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



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Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



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Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



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Roger Marshall M.D.  
U.S. Senator



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Ted Budd  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



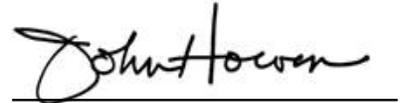
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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator