

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE, AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,
EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)
640 PARK PLACE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov

August 15, 2013

Acting Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

I write to request that the Federal Communications Commission move to a Notice of Public Rulemaking regarding the Sports Blackout Rule.

On January 12, 2012 the FCC announced it would receive comment on a Petition for Rulemaking requesting the elimination of the Sports Blackout Rule. I submitted comment at that time as did leading economists, fan organizations, public officials, and thousands of football enthusiasts around the country.

Yet more than a year and half later the FCC has failed to determine if the outdated policy remains in the public interest or to offer its recommendations. And as the professional football season begins, communities such as my own are once again being faced with unfair and counterproductive blackouts for local games.

The value of the National Football League was significantly enhanced by televising games and decades old blackout rules created before the League achieved its current popularity and financial stability do not increase game attendance. Most importantly, the Sports Blackout Rule is not fair to my constituents and a public that commits substantial tax dollars subsidizing the construction and maintenance of 30 of the NFL's 31 stadia.

I therefore urge the FCC move forward to a Notice of Public Rulemaking regarding the Sports Blackout Rule and look forward to its recommendations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
MEMBER OF CONGRESS