



OPASTCO

FACT:
Fair Access to Content & Telecommunications Coalition

ABOUT FACT

The Fair Access to Content & Telecommunications (FACT) coalition has been founded by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), and the Rural Independent Competitive Alliance (RICA) to address issues raised by the proposed merger of Comcast Corporation and NBC Universal and related issues of video access for television and online viewing. The lobbying firm of Patton Boggs has agreed to work with FACT on this issue.

FACT actively encourages other groups and associations to join these efforts.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FACT is to ensure that independent video distributors, such as telephone companies, broadband operators, and their subsidiaries have access to television and online content under fair and nondiscriminatory pricing and terms for the benefit of their customers. This undertaking is critical because nondiscriminatory access to both traditional subscription video, as well as “over the top” online content, is a prime driver of broadband adoption in rural service areas. In the near term, the mission of FACT is to address competitive issues and concerns in the television and online markets arising from the proposed merger of Comcast and NBCU.

GOALS

The goals of FACT are primarily: (1) to address and challenge the Comcast – NBCU merger and seek conditions that ensure access to the content controlled by the merged entity for television, on-demand, and online viewing; (2) to ensure that all content is available on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and fair volume discounts based on reasonable criteria; and (3) to address and resolve the problems of forced carriage and forced bundling of video content and those associated with fair access to online content.

ACTION

The FACT coalition has begun raising its concerns regarding the Comcast – NBCU merger on Capitol Hill, and will soon do so at the Federal Communications Commission and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. FACT actively coordinates with other industry and consumer groups that also have concerns about the proposed merger.

FACT hopes for additional support from the independent carrier community. More details will be coming soon.