

ATVA Praises Members Of Congress For Letters To FCC
The Time Has Come To Revisit Rules That Allow
Broadcasters To Threaten Blackouts

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WASHINGTON (July 27) – The American Television Alliance (ATVA), a voice for viewers, released the following statement today praising Members of Congress for speaking out on the need for the Federal Communications Commission to initiate a review to examine whether changes are needed to the system that permits broadcasters to threaten consumers with blackouts.

“The American Television Alliance applauds the Members of Congress who have taken the lead in asking the FCC to revisit outdated rules. “

“The ATVA believes that as policymakers continue to study this important issue, they will find that action is needed. We are pleased to see Reps. Steve Israel, D-NY, and Peter King, R-NY, and the other members taking the lead in asking the FCC to consider revisiting these outdated rules.”

“In addition to the letter from Reps. Israel and King, Reps. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, have issued similar written requests.

“The letters from the Members of Congress come after the formation earlier this month of the American Television Alliance, a 34-member organization of consumer groups, independent programmers, telephone companies, cable and satellite video service providers, who have banded together to protect consumers from blackout threats and excessive rate increases. The ATVA’s mission is to persuade the FCC and Congress to re-examine the retransmission consent rules, which have not been changed since passage of the 1992 Cable Act, in order to promote competition and protect consumers.”

“Broadcasters should not be threatened by the prospect of an FCC review to determine whether the current system is still working to serve the public interest. After a review, the FCC need not revise the rules if it finds that the system is still working as the agency and Congress intended almost two decades ago.”