

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Gray Television Licensee, LLC Petition for Special Relief, MB Docket No. 16-293, CSR-8926-A

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am pleased to write this letter recognizing Gray Television Licensee, LLC's (Gray) Petition for Special Relief (Petition) seeking to modify the local satellite carriage market for WSAW-TV to include Ashland and Iron Counties in northern Wisconsin. As a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I worked to ensure that the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (STELAR) included a provision granting the FCC authority to modify Direct Broadcast Satellite markets and bring local television service for "orphan counties" like Iron and Ashland in Wisconsin. Given my Wisconsin constituents' strong interest in this topic, I am glad to see that Gray has come forward with a proposed solution to the lack of locally-relevant programming available to viewers there.

As I understand it, Gray's petition promises to substantially increase the amount of local, Wisconsin-produced and Wisconsin-focused programming available to viewers in Ashland and Iron Counties. If that is the case, then many complaints raised by my constituents in those communities will be addressed. Many would be happy that they no longer have to watch Minnesota Vikings games when everyone else in the state is watching the Packers. And all would benefit from an increase in locally-produced, in-state programming. These are important issues, and they demand the FCC's swift attention.

I appreciate the FCC's efforts thus far to ensure that Gray's Petition gets a public airing as quickly as possible, and I strongly urge the agency to continue to move forward quickly towards a resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
U.S. Senator