United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 25, 2007

Mr. Brian Roberts
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Comcast Cable
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Mr. Charles W. Ergen
Chief Executive Officer
Echostar Communications Corporation
9601 S. Meridian Boulevard
Englewood, Colorado 80112

Mr. Craig Thompson
Commissioner
Mountain West Conference
15455 Gleneagle Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

Mr. Chase Carey
President and Chief Executive Officer
Direct TV
230 E. Imperial Highway
El Segundo, California 90245

Mr. Les Moonves
President and Chief Executive Officer
CBS Corporation
7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90036

Dear Sirs:

We would like to take this opportunity to write today to express our concern regarding the ongoing impasse that has prevented access to the Mountain West Sports Network through the satellite services offered by DirecTV and DISH Network.

This issue has been a matter of substantial controversy among the fans of the teams in the Mountain West Conference as the failure to reach an agreement has left many viewers without access to this widely anticipated and popular sports programming. As you know, many of the universities in the Mountain West Conference are marquee schools located in the Intermountain West with student populations drawn from all over the United States. Also, these schools' alumni live in all areas of the country, many of them far outside the regions where the network has been made available. Many of the potential viewers in the Intermountain West live in rural and mountainous areas where only satellite television is available.

As you might expect, our constituents have contacted us to express their concerns about their inability to access this programming. We anticipate that, with the progression of the college football season, which will be followed immediately by the basketball season, our constituents' desire to view Mountain West Conference games will only intensify.

Despite some claims to the contrary, it appears that the hurdles preventing an agreement are not technical in nature. Indeed, other conferences and providers have been able to make programming arrangements that have made games and other programming available through both cable and satellite outlets. We strongly believe that, when it comes to programming conflicts, the interests of consumers should be the foremost concern. Toward that end, we urge all of the parties involved in this dispute to work together to ensure that Mountain West Conference games and events are broadcast to the widest possible audience.

Clearly, both cable and satellite providers have to make programming decisions with their business interests in mind. However, if all interested parties would be willing to make appropriate concessions, we believe that there are a number of readily available solutions to this conflict. As Senators from states represented in the Mountain West Conference, we continue to be supportive of public policies that allow both cable and satellite vendors to maximize program content for their customers. That being the case, we believe each of the entities involved in this dispute share the responsibility to provide access to program content to as many consumers as possible.

We look forward to assisting you in any appropriate manner to facilitate a swift conclusion to your negotiations. We look forward to seeing Mountain West Sports Network achieving the goal of nationwide access.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

John Barrasso
United States Senator

John Ensign
United States Senator

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator

Wayne Allard
United States Senator

cc:
Dr. David B. Ashley, President, University of Nevada at Las Vegas
Dr. Victor Boschini, Chancellor, Texas Christian University
Dr. Thomas Buchanan, President, University of Wyoming
Dr. Larry Edward Penley, President, Colorado State University
Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, Superintendent, United States Air Force Academy
Dr. Cecil Samuelson, President, Brigham Young University
Dr. David J. Schmidly, President, University of New Mexico
Dr. Stephen L. Weber, President, San Diego State University
Mr. Michael K. Young, President, University of Utah