April 20, 2020

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, I am writing to reiterate our objection to Congress’s failure to renew the distant network signal (DNS) license as part of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization of 2019. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Americans will lose access to one or all of the main broadcast networks as of May 31, 2020. They will no longer be able to view ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, and the CW, which would be devastating during this unprecedented health and economic crisis.

The DNS license helps connect many Americans to vital broadcast news, informational, and entertainment programming. In largely rural areas where broadcast networks cannot be accessed through an antenna or in markets with no “local” satellite TV provider, the DNS license allowed satellite TV companies to provide national broadcast network coverage.

Americans feel a great need to be able to watch major broadcast networks to stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 news. Given the rapidly changing environment and implications for public health, keeping current is imperative, particularly in less populated areas of the country. When hundreds of thousands of Americans wake up to see their access to news compromised or eliminated, while their friends and families retain the ability to see this information, their disappointment will be directed at the members of Congress who failed to protect them.

Please act quickly to protect satellite TV subscribers’ access to broadcast network programming by delaying the May 31 expiration of the existing distant network signal license to at least December 31, 2020. Doing so will help ensure every American can maintain access to critical news and information throughout the COVID-19 and 2020 elections. Moreover, it is simply the right thing to do during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Tom Schatz

[Signature]