

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 3, 2020

Brian L. Roberts  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Comcast Corporation  
1701 JFK Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Jordan Wertlieb  
President  
Hearst Television Inc.  
300 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Roberts and Mr. Wertlieb,

We write to express our concern about reports that Comcast subscribers in Bristol County will be losing access to local news and broadcasting from WCVB, their Massachusetts ABC affiliate. According to recent reports, Comcast will no longer carry WCVB in its channel line-up starting on December 22, 2020.<sup>1</sup> The loss of this channel will prevent Bristol County residents from viewing a critical source of Massachusetts news and information over their set-top boxes.

Particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, loss of access to this station would be harmful to Bristol County viewers who rely on state-specific announcements to stay healthy and safe. Updates and recommendations from the State House must reach every corner of the Commonwealth, as communities across Massachusetts face enormous public health and economic challenges. Acknowledging how critical it is for Massachusetts residents to maintain their access to in-state news, other companies in the broadcast and cable industries have recently reached agreements to serve their customers and preserve viewers' access to the programming they value.<sup>2</sup>

We make no representations as to the merits of either side's position in any ongoing discussions, as these are contractual discussions between private parties. We simply encourage both parties to

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<sup>1</sup> Adam Jacobson, *Comcast To Kill 'Neighboring DMA' Access To Hearst Stations*, Radio & Television Business Report, (Nov. 23, 2020), <https://www.rbr.com/heres-why-comcast-is-dropping-local-stations-in-38-markets/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Springfield TV news now reaches Spectrum subscribers in the Berkshires*, Berkshire Eagle (Mar. 31, 2020), [https://www.berkshireeagle.com/archives/springfield-tv-news-now-reaches-spectrum-subscribers-in-the-berkshires/article\\_f7a49e86-d257-5863-8c8e-4f89bd8e4413.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/archives/springfield-tv-news-now-reaches-spectrum-subscribers-in-the-berkshires/article_f7a49e86-d257-5863-8c8e-4f89bd8e4413.html).

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pursue good faith negotiations in this matter so that Bristol County residents continue to receive important Massachusetts information, including emergency alerts, sports, and daily news. Consumers should not be caught in the middle.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress