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Our goal: Broadcast TV in Every Home!

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FCC TV Channel Auction Threatens Free TV in Small Communities

Washington, D.C. - As a result of the *Spectrum Act of 2012*, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) developed an auction to sell to smartphone operators the TV channels now used by many TV stations. While large market full power TV stations receive some of the proceeds from the auction of their channels, the small Low Power TV and TV translator stations which broadcast over the air to thousands of America's small communities may have their channels taken from them in a channel "repacking" process. They will receive no payment whatever and many such stations will go off the air as a result. The public should demand that their lost small TV stations receive some nominal reimbursement for their losses.

Because many small TV stations are nonprofit and all operate on shoestring budgets to bring educational programs, emergency broadcasts, news and entertainment to their communities, they will go silent if they cannot afford the high cost of finding a new channel or a new location, forcing them to relinquish channels their viewers have watched for many years. Worse, this may cause loss of entire groups of rural stations. If the channel is in a daisy-chain translator system, entire networks of up to 20 or more towns can lose access to free antenna TV.

Service from a large city TV station 75 or more miles away may also disappear as most are carried by one or more translators near the smaller cities. Thus, no over-the-air TV signal in rural areas can be considered safe. Jim McDonald, President of the National Translator Association, stated "Congressional offices, especially in rural districts, want to hear from viewers who are in danger of losing their TV signals. Viewers who depend on TV in these areas should strongly voice their support of rural over the air television."

In the Western US, the most vulnerable areas are rural farming and ranching areas, resort areas, canyons and rough terrain. Contacting your U. S. Representative and Senator at either their local or Washington offices with a request that the FCC respect rural TV viewers in the TV channel auction process assures that rural citizens' voices will be heard while it is being designed in Washington.

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