

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515-4308

October 27, 1993

The Honorable James H. Quello  
Acting Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Room 802  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you today to commend you for the expeditious and thorough way in which the Commission conducted its recent cable rate survey. As I mentioned at the recent Telecommunications Subcommittee hearing on the implementation of the Cable Act, the FCC has been given the impossible task of making good on some unrealistic promises made to consumers when Congress passed the cable law last year.

The preliminary results of the Commission's survey of cable television rates show that many subscribers have seen reductions in their rates. However, as opponents of the cable law predicted, in many cases, subscribers have also seen rate increases.

Mr. Chairman, I firmly believe that the specific cases in which consumers cable bills have risen, as revealed by the FCC's survey, are the result of a flawed law -- not the way in which it was implemented.

Moreover, the evidence thus far indicates that the cable industry has made a good faith effort to comply with this new and complicated law. Therefore, with respect to those instances where the Commission might find examples of rate increases, I would urge you to resist congressional pressure to make broad and unfounded assumptions about whether the cable industry has attempted to evade rate regulation. Instead, I would encourage you to examine these situations solely on a case-by-case basis to determine whether further action is required under the law, and not take any further across-the-board actions that would affect all cable systems.

Again, I want to applaud the Commission's work on the cable rate survey and commend you on the exceptionable job you have done as Chairman.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

  
JACK FIELDS  
Member of Congress

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