

**Question from the Honorable Lee Terry
for the witness R. Stanton Dodge of DISH Network L.L.C.**
*“Satellite Video 101” hearing held by the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on
Communications and Technology on February 13, 2013*

Question:

Technology keeps giving consumers more and better choices for watching TV when they want, where they want it and on what device they choose. How do we make sure the Satellite Act keeps up with those demands and responds to technology?

Answer for the record from R. Stanton Dodge:

First, at the very least, Congress should reauthorize the current statute to make sure that roughly 1.5 million satellite TV homes relying on distant network signals for their network programming are not left without such programming at the end of 2014.

Second, Congress should, among other things, address the harm to consumers when a local broadcaster does not allow a pay-TV provider to carry its programming during a retransmission consent negotiation. Specifically, Congress should amend the definition of an “unserved household” to include households that lack a local broadcast signal in that situation. Congress should also amend certain exclusivity regulations, such as the network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity rules, to give effect to the proposed changes in copyright law. These changes would then allow Direct Broadcast Satellite to import a distant signal of the same network affiliation, allowing consumers to at least receive their network programming while the DBS provider and local broadcaster continue to negotiate an agreement. Although a distant signal is not a perfect substitute for the local signal, it does afford the consumer some protection in the interim (unlike today).