

JOHN A. LAWRENCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
52A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202013
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2013
PHONE: (717) 260-6117

JENNERVILLE OFFICE:
1 COMMERCE BLVD., SUITE 200
WEST GROVE, PA 19390
PHONE: (610) 869-1602

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

January 6, 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I trust you are well.

I have received a number of emails and telephone calls in recent days regarding a very specific programming issue, and I would appreciate your assistance in rectifying the situation.

By way of background, Chester County, Pennsylvania straddles several media markets. In particular, many residents in the western part of the county view NBC affiliate WGAL Channel 8 from Lancaster, whereas residents in the eastern part of the county view NBC affiliate WCAU Channel 10 from Philadelphia. As analog signals gave way to digital, many residents of rural western Chester County cannot pick up any digital signal at all, and have been forced to sign up for cable television. The cable provider in this part of the county is Armstrong Cable, and for many years they have provided both NBC affiliates to their customers.

Recently, Armstrong Cable sent a letter to their customers advising that WGAL has been dropped from their channel lineup effective immediately. A copy of this letter is attached for your review. This is apparently due to the fact that the FCC has determined that the assigned NBC affiliate for western Chester County is WCAU. Since WGAL is not "significantly viewed" in Western Chester County, Armstrong is not under obligation to provide this channel in their lineup.

If this is indeed the case, this FCC rule seems archaic and impractical. Network television is free to customers who have the proper digital reception equipment, and it stands to reason that cable channels in the same area as that digital signal should be able to receive that programming at no additional cost. The rule seems to fly in the face of common sense, and it certainly does not take into consideration the firmly held desires of the local populace.

JOHN A. LAWRENCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
52A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202013
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2013
PHONE: (717) 260-6117

JENNERVILLE OFFICE:
1 COMMERCE BLVD., SUITE 200
WEST GROVE, PA 19390
PHONE: (610) 869-1602

The residents of western Chester County have long depended upon WGAL for a number of important reasons, including school closing information, early warning information on the nearby Peach Bottom Nuclear Generation Station, local sports programming, and the local nightly news.

I ask for your direct assistance in solving this issue. Your involvement in waiving any applicable regulations and/or fees would be sincerely appreciated, both by me and the affected viewers. You may direct reply correspondence on this issue to my attention at the Jennerstown office, with a cc to Armstrong Cable, Attention David Wittmann, 1 Armstrong Place, Butler, PA 16001.

Thank you for your assistance, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information on this issue.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lawrence".

John Lawrence
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

cc: Honorable Joseph Pitts, United States Congress
Honorable Pat Toomey, United States Senate
Honorable Bob Casey, United States Senate
WGAL Channel 8, Lancaster, PA
WCAU Channel 10, Philadelphia, PA
Armstrong Cable
Affected residents of southern Chester County



ARMSTRONG®

Important Channel Notification

Dear Valued Customer,

Armstrong strives to offer a wide variety of channels and provide the best content available for our customers. We'd like to make you aware of some changes happening to your channel lineup, beginning later this month.

The Federal Government designates certain broadcast television stations as the primary station in a local market. Armstrong has always brought you these channels, as well as some other broadcast stations from outside the local market.

The business of broadcast television is changing rapidly. Local stations are using every protection granted to them by the Federal Government. Your area receives multiple channels from Philadelphia, Baltimore, & Lancaster markets. Some of Baltimore and Lancaster stations are now considered to be out-of-market for your area.

Effective December 31, 2011, the following channels are being removed; WGAL NBC – channel 8, WBAL NBC – channel 11, WMAR ABC – channel 24 and WBFF FOX – channel 45.

You will continue to enjoy all your favorite broadcast networks such as ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox from the Philadelphia area.

Effective January 1, 2012 the TV Guide channel will no longer be available. People's habits have changed over the years. Much like the transition from the TV Guide magazine to the TV Guide channel, the vast majority of viewers now favor using the onscreen guide and the Internet for browsing programming schedules, making this channel obsolete. Armstrong will continue to provide listing information online at ArmstrongMyWire.com, and via the Interactive Guide found on our set top boxes. Programming information can also be found in the television listings of your local newspaper.

On January 31, 2012 we will be moving a few channels to accommodate the recent changes. We recognize that any channel change can be inconvenient, and we've tried to keep these changes to a minimum. To assist you, we have included a new channel line-up on the back of this letter.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 1-877-277-5711. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Thank you for being an Armstrong customer!

Robert Lauer
General Manager