

**November 6, 2019**

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

I'd like to ask for your support on an issue that I feel is very important to Yakima County Farm Bureau members, as well as to resident in rural areas across Washington.

The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization allows satellite television subscribers all across the country to receive network news and programming. Because rural areas sometimes lack options for cable and other forms of television, many residents rely on satellite to receive their news, as well as sports and entertainment.

The Satellite Act is important not only because it allows rural residents to receive distant network signals, but also requires pay TV providers and broadcasters to negotiate retransmission fees in "good faith." The expiration of this provision would lead to more blackouts and higher fees for consumers.

This legislation is critical to preserving rural communities' access to network programming that other Americans enjoy and often take for granted.

I applaud all of your efforts to support Washington's rural communities, and I hope that we can count on your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Herke  
Yakima County Farm Bureau