



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General

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Mr. Bill Morrow
CEO, DirecTV, LLC
2260 East Imperial Hwy
LA 5/12th Fl. W/S 1248
El Segundo, CA 90245

Dear Mr. Morrow,

One year ago two members of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology from California sent a letter to your parent company and others urging you to cancel carriage of conservative media outlets. As the Attorney General of West Virginia and the Attorney General of Ohio, we are deeply concerned with your company's announcement that it will discontinue carriage of One America News Network in an apparent concession to the pressure campaign against your company. We urge you to reconsider your unusual decision to cancel a growing network, especially given the important role of DIRECTV STREAM as a nation-wide, over-the-top cable television provider.

We urge that you reconsider the decision to cancel carriage of OANN because a healthy diversity of daily news programming is an essential part of our public discourse. While some may object to the views and opinions expressed on OANN, the same is true of liberal-leaning channels such as MSNBC.

In addition, giving in to the demands of two members of Congress to cancel carriage of a channel because of its conservative programming sets a dangerous precedent. A large American media company should stand fast against such pressure to stifle dissenting and alternative opinions.

The last thing our country needs right now is corporate censorship of conservative voices at the behest of members of Congress and others seeking to cut off debate by limiting the reach of those that disagree with them.

Competition among daily cable news providers both across and on the same side of the political spectrum is also important to the health and prosperity of the news ecosystem. Americans benefit most when they have more choices, not less.

The pressure campaign against your company was lamentable, but giving in is far worse.

This decision to cancel carriage of OANN, if not reversed, will not be the end of the matter. Giving in to demands for politically motivated corporate censorship will only breed more demands in the future. Neither DIRECTV nor the channels it carries should face an ongoing concern over whether programming is acceptable to powerful political elites. This issue is all the more important when it comes to news. The Fourth Estate must have ample room to cover the government and politics of the day, without newsrooms constantly looking over their shoulder.

Respectfully, the business case for canceling carriage of OANN is questionable. With the rise of dedicated direct-to-consumer streaming services, daily news and sports remain the mainstay of consumers' desire to maintain cable television service. Carrying Fox News, Newsmax, and OANN provides daily news coverage and commentary that is tailored to them. It is a mistake to eliminate them from your offerings.

The proper course is to let competition for viewers provide the assurance of quality it always has. Picking and choosing offerings based on political content puts your company in the position as arbiter of what is and is not "good" programming. By carrying all channels, your company is a neutral service provider, without placing imprimatur of your corporate endorsement of the channels you carry. Consumers know how to change the channel, and they should be afforded that opportunity, rather than denied choice because a channel has offended powerful members of Congress.

Reporting indicates that your decision will go into effect in early April. There is more than enough time for you to reconsider and negotiate to keep OANN on your services.

Keeping OANN on your services will keep your boardroom, and your parent company's boardroom, out of political fray; cancellation of OANN unavoidably enmeshes your companies in a morass of political correctness going forward. We respectfully urge you to do the right thing and maintain your full offering of conservative daily news programming. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Patrick Morrisey
West Virginia Attorney General



Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General