



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International
Secretary-Treasurer

October 30, 2019

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
420A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen, Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of the approximately 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to urge the United States Congress to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Reauthorization (STELAR) Act as written before it expires at the end of this year.

The STELAR Act has a direct impact on the IBEW's membership. Since AT&T's acquisition of DirecTV in 2015, the IBEW has organized over 3,000 previously non-union DirecTV employees – giving them collective bargaining power to help secure fair wages, benefits, and a voice in the workplace. Failure to reauthorize this law would threaten the livelihood of these workers and negatively impact the communities they serve.

DirecTV and other satellite providers transmit broadcast television networks to more than 870,000 consumers nationwide who reside where local network signals are not available. These are primarily rural consumers, long-distance truckers, campers and tailgaters at sporting events who rely on satellite service for local and national news, weather reports and entertainment.

If Congress does not renew the STELAR Act, these 870,000 consumers could lose access to these distant network signals that are an integral part of their satellite TV service causing consumer disruption, dissatisfaction and confusion. This is an unacceptable outcome for those consumers and the IBEW members at DirecTV whose jobs depend on a robust competitive satellite video offering.





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Please ensure that Congress will pass legislation to reauthorize the STELAR Act before December 31, 2019.

Thank you for your continued leadership and engagement with our members.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie R. Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:blw

