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January 13, 2025

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Blackout of Nexstar Media Group stations on Altice/Optimum systems
Reporting Requirements for Commercial Television Broadcast Station Blackouts, MB Docket
No. 23-427

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Altice USA, Inc. (“Optimum” or “The Company”) hereby notifies the Federal Communications Commission that Optimum’s contract with Nexstar Media Group, Inc. (“Nexstar”) to carry Nexstar-owned or operated broadcast stations (the “Stations”), expired as of January 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM ET. Despite the Company’s repeated efforts to reach a fair and reasonable agreement, including making multiple good faith offers intended to align the parties’ goals in a reasonable manner, Nexstar declined to continue to make its signals available on Optimum TV lineups.

In the spirit of the Commission’s January 3 Report and Order, [FCC-24-138A1.pdf](#), which has not yet taken effect, Optimum is reporting Nexstar’s blackout of stations on our systems. Nexstar is the largest broadcast station group in the U.S. and negotiates retransmission consent for stations across Optimum’s footprint (including, as noted below, stations for which the Commission has explicitly ruled it should not negotiate). The blackout affects the majority of Optimum video subscribers across the country, including tens of thousands of subscribers who have lost access to two broadcast stations within their local market. The list of stations, including call signs, multicast streams, and network affiliations, is attached as Addendum 1 to this letter.

We also want to make you aware of a few key details of the breakdown in our negotiations:

Nexstar Continues to Insist on Negotiating for WPIX, New York. As the Commission is well aware, in March of 2024, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and proposed a \$1.8M fine against Nexstar, [FCC-24-34A1.pdf](#), for taking *de facto* control of WPIX, the CW affiliate in New York, resulting in a violation of Section 310(d) of the Act through an unauthorized transfer of control, and a violation of the national television ownership cap. Altice, therefore, sought to negotiate with Mission Broadcasting, WPIX’s owner, for carriage of the station. Mission, however, advised that Nexstar held the necessary rights to negotiate for WPIX. Nexstar has continued to insist that the FCC’s order was not applicable to the negotiations and that WPIX be included in the agreement, refusing Optimum’s requests to remove WPIX from these negotiations, in apparent disregard of the

Commission's clear directive. Nexstar further required that the Company agree to a contractual provision stating that WPIX would continue to be governed by the Nexstar agreement even after all FCC decisions were final, regardless of whether such decisions had been stayed, until all possible appeals had been concluded – effectively extending these rights for years after an adverse FCC decision. Such blatant disregard of FCC rules and orders should not be tolerated.

Furthermore, Nexstar insisted on including an additional non-owned station, KAZT, in the Nexstar agreement, even though Optimum already has a retransmission consent agreement covering that station – which it negotiated directly with the station's owner, as FCC rules contemplate. If Nexstar controls KAZT in the same manner as the Commission found it controls WPIX, Nexstar would be even further over the national television ownership limit.

Nexstar is Demanding Unreasonably High Fees and Holding Consumers Hostage to Outdated Terms. For all its stations, Nexstar is demanding exorbitant rate increases, which puts inflationary pressure on the retail cable rates paid by Optimum customers. Nexstar's fee demands, if met, would be the highest of any broadcasting group carried on the Optimum lineup. Retransmission consent fees represent the fastest growing portion of a customer's TV bill, and Nexstar's anti-consumer approach to these negotiations aligns with the broken traditional video model. Despite a shrinking cable subscriber base, broadcasters like Nexstar continue to abuse their retransmission consent rights to seek more money from fewer customers, instead of recognizing the evolution of the industry, as well as increasing fragmentation of viewership, in an effort to meet customer expectations and demands for choice and value.

Nexstar is also using these negotiations to force customers to pay for less popular programming, such as NewsNation, which has very low viewership, in order to continue carrying Nexstar broadcast stations. Nexstar's outdated "all or nothing" bundling approach would force Optimum's customers across the country to pay for niche content they don't want. Optimum values local programming and understands that viewers in New York do not watch the same content or have the same interests as viewers in Texas or Arkansas, so it is unreasonable and detrimental to customers for Nexstar to demand high fees for carriage of such channels.

Moreover, Nexstar also holds consumers hostage to these negotiations, timing the expiration of carriage deals to coincide with the NFL playoffs and other major televised events. They have little interest in the impact on consumers, instead using them as pawns to maximize profits, disregarding their statutory mandate to serve the public interest.

Optimum's Efforts to Support Customers. Optimum is proactively working with affected customers, including facilitating customer access to other video solutions to receive the programming they want, such as Fubo. In addition, the Company continues to transform and evolve the Optimum product suite in response to the rising cost of television content and changing consumer demands. These efforts include the launch of new video offerings and packages at different price points to give Optimum customers more choices.



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The Company is continuing to fight on Optimum customers' behalf to get the Stations back on Optimum TV lineups at fair rates. Customers are being notified of the blackout via the Optimum website at Optimum.com/Nexstar, on-screen messaging, and other means. Negotiations with Nexstar remain ongoing, and Optimum calls on Nexstar to engage in responsible practices in accordance with FCC rules so that Optimum can resume carrying the Stations. In the meantime, customers can continue to access alternative local news programming on broadcast channels available in their lineup. Optimum customers can cancel or downgrade their subscription at any time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cristina C. Chou
VP, Federal Affairs
Optimum

Addendum 1
Blacked Out Stations
(Multicasts included with primary call sign)

KAZT-CW Prescott, AZ
KAZT-TV MeTV

KARK-NBC Little Rock, AR
KARK-TV Antenna TV
KARK-TV Grit TV
KARK-TV Laff TV
KARZ-MNT Little Rock, AR
KARZ-DT Bounce TV

KFTA-FOX Fort Smith, AR
KFTA-DT Court TV
KFTA-DT Ion Mystery
KXNW My Network Ft. Smith, AR

KNWA-DT NBC Rogers, AR
KNWA-DT Grit TV
KNWA-DT Laff TV

KTLA-CW Los Angeles, CA

KTXL-FOX Sacramento, CA
KTXL-DT Antenna TV

WCTX-My 9 New Haven, CT
WCTX-DT Comet
WTNH-ABC New Haven, CT

KSNW-NBC Wichita, KS

KLFY-CBS Lafayette, LA
KLFY-DT CW



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KSHV-MNT Shreveport, LA
KSHV-DT Ion Mystery
KSHV-DT Quest
KTAL-NBC Shreveport, LA
KTAL-DT Cozi TV
KTAL-DT Laff TV

KARD-FOX West Monroe, LA
KARD-DT CW
KARD-DT Antenna TV
KARD-DT Grit TV
KSNF-NBC Joplin, MO

WDAF-FOX Kansas City, MO
WDAF-DT Antenna TV
WDAF-DT Rewind TV

KRBK-Fox Osage Beach, MO
KRBK-DT Antenna TV
KRBK-DT DABL

KOZL-MNT Springfield, MO
KOZL-DT Bounce TV
KOZL-DT Ion Mystery
KOZL-DT Rewind TV

WNTZ-FOX/MNT 48 Natchez, MS
WNTZ-DT Bounce TV
WNTZ-DT Laff TV
WNTZ-DT Ion Mystery

KLAS-CBS Las Vegas, NV
KLAS-DT Rewind TV

WPIX-CW New York, NY

WYCW-CW Asheville, NC

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WYCW-DT Rewind

WNCN-CBS Goldsboro, NC
WNCN-DT Antenna TV
WNCN-DT Grit TV
WNCN-DT Rewind TV

WNCT-CBS Greenville, NC
WNCT-DT-CW Greenville, NC
WNCT-DT Ion Mystery
WNCT-DT Rewind TV

WJW-FOX Cleveland, OH
WJW-DT Antenna TV

WKBN-CBS Youngstown, OH

KAUT-CW Oklahoma City, OK
KAUT-DT Ion Mystery
KAUT-DT Rewind TV
KFOR-NBC Oklahoma City, OK
KFOR-DT Antenna TV
KFOR-DT True Crime Network

WPHL-CW Philadelphia, PA
WPHL-DT Grit TV
WPHL-DT My Network

WREG-CBS Memphis, TN
WREG-DT Antenna TV
WREG-DT News Channel 3 Anytime

WKRN-ABC Nashville, TN
WKRN-DT Ion Mystery
WKRN-DT True Crime Network

KTAB-CBS Abilene, TX
KTAB-DT Ion Mystery
KTAB-DT Telemundo

KAMR-NBC Amarillo, TX
KAMR-NBC Amarillo, TX (s-T)
KAMR-DT Antenna TV
KAMR-DT Laff TV
KCPN-LP MNT Amarillo, TX
KCPN-DT Rewind

KBVO-MNT Austin, TX
KXAN-NBC Austin, TX
KXAN-DT Cozi TV
KXAN-DT Rewind TV

KYLE-MNT Bryan, TX
KYLE-DT Antenna TV
KYLE-DT Laff TV

KDAF-CW Dallas, TX
KDAF-DT Antenna TV
KDAF-DT Grit TV

KIAH-CW Houston, TX
KIAH-DT Antenna TV
KIAH-DT The Nest

KETK-NBC Jacksonville, TX
KETK-DT Antenna TV
KETK-DT Grit TV

KTPN-LP MNT Longview, TX

KLBK-CBS Lubbock, TX
KLBK-DT Antenna TV
KLBK-DT Court TV

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KMID-ABC Midland, TX
KMID-ABC Midland, TX (s-T)
KMID-DT Grit TV
KMID-DT Laff TV

KLST-CBS San Angelo, TX
KLST-CBS San Angelo, TX (s-T)
KLST-DT Grit TV
KLST-DT Ion Mystery

KWKT-FOX Waco, TX
KWKT-DT Bounce TV

KFDX-NBC Wichita Falls, TX
KFDX-DT CW
KJBO-LP MNT Wichita Falls, TX

WFXR-FOX Roanoke, VA
WFXR-DT-CW Roanoke, VA
WFXR-DT Bounce
WFXR-DT Quest TV

WBOY-NBC Clarksburg, WV
WBOY-DT-ABC Clarksburg, WV
WBOY-DT Ion Mystery
WBOY-DT Laff TV

WOWK-CBS Huntington, WV
WOWK-DT Grit TV
WOWK-DT Ion Mystery
WOWK-DT Rewind TV

WVNS-CBS Lewisburg, WV
WVNS-DT-FOX Lewisburg, WV

WTRF-CBS Wheeling, WV



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WTRF-DT-ABC Wheeling, WV
WTRF-DT My TV Wheeling, WV