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May 4, 2020

Paul C. Edwards  
Chairman  
Garrett County Commissioners  
203 South Fourth Street  
Oakland, MD 21550

Dear Chairman Edwards:

Thank you for your recent letter. As you know, I share your goal of ensuring that Garrett County residents maintain their access to the Pennsylvania channels they are used to while expanding access to Maryland networks, which are providing lifesaving information to Maryland residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, I recently sent a letter urging the FCC to work directly with Garrett County officials and Governor Hogan to solve this important issue. I have attached the FCC's response, which seems to indicate that Garrett County can petition the FCC directly to request that Garrett County residents have access to both Maryland and Pennsylvania channels. Chairman Pai indicates that if the FCC approves the county government's request, "the additional commercial station signals can be carried as local stations with the consent of the stations." Chairman Pai encouraged me to contact the Garrett County government to take the necessary steps to ensure this happens. If you need assistance in reaching out to the FCC to achieve this result, please let me know. As always, I stand ready to help.

In addition, Chairman Pai's letter indicates that independent Maryland broadcast stations can file a cable and/or satellite market modification petition to allow Maryland commercial TV stations to add Garrett County to their market. I will be sending a letter to the Maryland DC Delaware Broadcasters Association with you in copy to ensure that we are working together to explore all potential solutions to this problem.

Finally, Chairman Pai's letter seems to indicate that legislation is not required to solve this problem. However, if we discover after your conversations with the FCC that legislation is required to solve this problem, I will work quickly to address this issue.

Our shared constituents have waited too long to fix this problem. I am encouraged by Chairman Pai's letter, and I look forward to working with you to solve this issue once and for all. I also look forward to speaking with you and the other Garrett County elected officials this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

David Trone  
Member of Congress