



February 15, 2023

Mr. Bill Morrow  
Chief Executive Officer  
DirecTV  
2230 East Imperial Highway  
El Segundo, California 90245

Mr. John Stankey  
Chief Executive Officer  
AT&T, Inc.  
208 South Akard Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202

**Re: Carriage of Newsmax on the DirecTV Platform**

Gentlemen:

We are deeply concerned about the removal of Newsmax from DirecTV programming. Conservatives make up the single largest underserved market of information consumers in the United States. The 74 million voters who voted against President Joseph Biden have scant places to turn when seeking unbiased news, opinion journalism, or family entertainment.

Woke CEOs, tech oligarchs, government bureaucrats, and left-wing activists have engaged in information warfare to silence those with whom they disagree. Conservative voices have been censored on social media (sometimes at the direction of the federal government). Conservative web sites have been “de-emphasized” by search engines such as Google. Emails containing conservative content are often intercepted by internet service providers and labeled as spam. And conservative programming is regularly rejected by major media platforms.

As a result, center-right voters are hungry for content. Yet, their access to conservative information sources is regularly blocked. Indeed, the dearth of media access is one of the reasons why our organization launched its own regularly scheduled video programming online, known as “CPAC Now.”

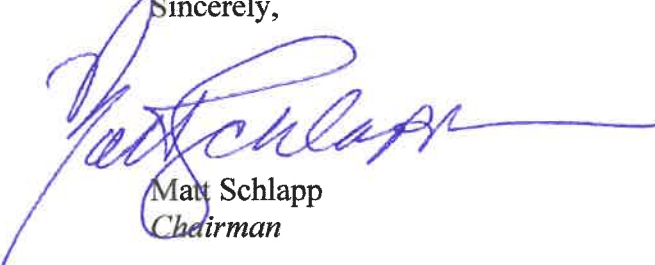
Thus, when we heard about the decision to end carriage of Newsmax on the DirecTV platform, we became even more troubled. Newsmax is one of the few channels that will carry news events important for the millions of conservatives we represent. Even our own Conservative Political Action Conference, which is the largest and most influential gathering of conservatives in the U.S., is regularly censored, deplatformed or shadow-banned. (We would note that each of the more than 100 elected officials participating in CPAC 2023 in the nation’s capital next month understand how destructive the actions of these woke companies are to their beliefs.)



Given the high ratio of left-leaning channels to right-leaning ones now available on DirecTV, our concern is more than justified. We recognize that economics of subscription video content are complex and non-transparent. And while we loathe to become involved in a purely private contractual dispute, Newsmax has alleged that AT&T DirecTV’s position is that it is never eligible for any license fees, while all other U.S. cable news channels get such fees. That said, the bottom line is the same. Conservatives across the country are losing yet another source of opinion and news content that appeals to them.

On behalf of our organization and our activists across America, we strongly urge you to reinstate Newsmax on the DirecTV platform. Given the size of the conservative movement, there is a significant opportunity for DirecTV to reverse course and become a place where all Americans can find a more balanced presentation of news and voices to help them make informed decisions.

Sincerely,



Matt Schlapp  
Chairman

CC:

Thaddeus Arroyo, Board of Directors - DirecTV  
John Flynn, Board of Directors - DirecTV  
Steve McGaw, Board of Directors - DirecTV  
David Trujillo, Board of Directors - DirecTV

William E. Kennard, Chairman, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Scott T. Ford, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Glenn H. Hutchins, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Stephen J. Luczo, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Michael B. McCallister, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Beth E. Mooney, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Matthew K. Rose, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Cynthia B. Taylor, Board of Directors – AT&T  
Luis A. Ubinas, Board of Directors – AT&T