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Series: Baker, James A., III, Files
Subseries: Legislative Files

OA/ID Number: 93003
Folder ID Number: 93003-012

Folder Title:
Cable Letters (JAB and RGD) [James A. Baker]

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AnchorMedia



11300 Fourth Street North, Suite 349, St. Petersburg, Florida 33716-2922
Telephone (813) 577-1600 FAX (813) 576-3851

Alan Henry
President, CEO

October 6, 1992

The Honorable James Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

I'm addressing this to you directly and personally as you are clearly the only person in the administration that has a wit of common sense.

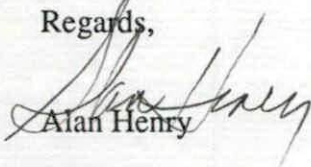
The President's defeat on the Cable Bill was ordained. It was ordained because it was a consumer driven bill brought about by consumer out cries. The President's insensitivity to this was manifested by his veto. Unfortunately the President's insensitivity in general to the population is what will bring about what I believe, sadly, is his defeat, in the upcoming election.

I have voted Republican every single election since Eisenhower. I will not vote Republican this election. That's not my vote, that's ten votes in my family. That ten votes is very close to the margin between Governor Clinton and President Bush.

Embracing political idolatry over political reality represents a folly that no president has a right to embrace. After we got through with Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson and the Republican Platform and all of that other hyperbole, we then had to deal with the President's credibility and his insensitivity to the population. There is a vacuum, it was never more obvious than in the Cable Bill.

I realize that I am a broadcaster and I realize that I have a preferential view of how that bill should have gone. I am also an American and I am also, I believe, a sensible one who understands what a level playing field is all about. The Cable Bill was brought about because the playing field was unlevelled. For the President to do what he did only invited the end result. What is sad is that I don't believe his veto, this time, will be lost on the population as a whole relative to their belief as to his insensitivity to their needs.

Regards,



Alan Henry

AH:lc

AnchorMedia Group:

Television: WLOS-TV 📺 Asheville, NC - Greenville/Spartanburg, SC • WAXA-TV 📺 Anderson, SC • WSYX-TV 📺 Columbus, OH
KQVR-TV 📺 Sacramento/Stockton, CA
Radio: KZRR-FM/KZSS-AM, Albuquerque, NM • KYRK-FM/KORK-AM, Las Vegas, NV

AnchorMedia



11300 Fourth Street North, Suite 349
St. Petersburg, Florida 33716-2922

**The Honorable James Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20036**



American Telecasting, Inc.

September 25, 1992

Via Facsimile

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff to the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvanian Avenue
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Baker:

It was with great satisfaction that I learned that the House and Senate last week passed their respective versions of the Cable Reregulation legislation. At the same time, though, I am anxious that the President, who says he is for competition and against government regulation of the marketplace, will use his veto power to nullify this badly needed legislation.

Competitive wireless cable systems across the country have brought to the marketplace an important alternative choice for consumers. Subscribers in the 110 cities served by wireless cable already enjoy a 25-30% price benefit now. This competitive tonic cannot continue to benefit the TV households of American without the pro-competitive access to programming that S.12 provides. While we have most of the programming today, the terms, prices and conditions for that programming are sometimes 200-300% greater than cable distribution's prices. And in TNT's case, NFL and NBA programming are being completely denied to over 500,000 wireless cable subscribers across the country.

I speak as an American consumer. Help competition thrive in the wireless cable marketplace. Please don't veto this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Gast
President

BEG/mah

Hold for cable bill
final disposition --
or send to Public Liaison
for approp. action...

Barbara/Mike,
What do you think? Thanks,

csj
9/28

1710 Summer
Burlington, IA 52601
September 25, 1992.

The Honorable James A Baker III
Chief of Staff to the President
17th Street and Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Baker,

This letter is in regards to the passage
of S. 12.

With your expertise in counseling the President,
I urge you to point out to him that the
necessary part of this piece of legislation
is programming access. This would provide
competitors such as wireless cable, home satellite
& etc. the fuel to start running. Competition,
not monopolies regulated by the government, is what
we need to protect the consumer.

Please do the right thing for all of us.
Don't veto this legislation.

Sincerely

Jaye Vance



824035

DOC

September 25, 1992

J. Patrick Dugan
President & CEO

Mr. James Baker
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. Baker:

Re: S.12 -- The Cable Consumer Protection Bill

I urge you to recommend that President Bush sign S.12. The cable TV industry is an unregulated monopoly. Period. End of story.

Therefore, a little regulation and a large boost for competitive forces, as in S.12, are exactly what is needed; even staunch conservatives can't -- or shouldn't -- object to this minimal regulation of a monopoly:

(1) The so-called price regulation in S.12 is de minimus; only "basic" channels are covered, thus leaving the more popular channels such as ESPN, TNT, USA, etc. open to virtually unregulated price increases by the cable companies, and

(2) The supposed cost to cable TV for retransmission of local off-air channels is a Trojan horse at best; the cable companies will refuse and the local TV stations will have no choice but to back down. Do you really believe giant companies like TCI and Time Warner and the others are going to allow any such cost escalation to happen? I believe they'll just drop the signals from their line-up and let the consumer get them from "off-the-air" (very easily done in most places, by the way).

On the other hand, the equal access to programming provision, the heart of this legislation, will be a big boost to satellite cable, private cable, and wireless cable in their efforts to compete with the entrenched CATV monopoly -- and competition is by far the best way to "regulate."

Accordingly, I urge you to resist the power and influence of the cable TV lobbyists and PACs and support the consumer's side of this issue by supporting S.12.

Lastly, speaking not as an executive of the wireless cable industry but, rather, as a voter who wants very much for President Bush to be re-elected, I urge you to not risk, so late in the campaign, the President's first-ever veto override on this legislation, which will successfully be portrayed by the Democrats (particularly Senator Gore who spearheaded this legislation in the Senate) as pro-consumer, pro-competition, pro-education, and anti-CATV monopoly (all of which are true).

Yours truly,

J. Patrick Dugan

Township of Union Public Schools
"THE PRESIDENTIAL MODEL SCHOOL DISTRICT"

JAMES M. CAULFIELD, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

September 29, 1992

The Honorable James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff to the President
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20004

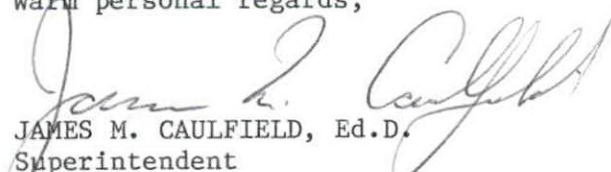
Dear Jim:

I'm writing to you with respect to the President's decision regarding S-12. I'm Superintendent of Schools in Union, New Jersey. With the encouragement of President Reagan, the FCC relaxed its regulations to permit school districts to lease to wireless cable operators excess time on its licensed channels. Union receives approximately \$100,000 in revenue from the lease of excess time on its channel here in the greater metropolitan area.

Throughout the United States, a minimum of \$3 million is made available from wireless cable operators to educational institutions. Approval of S-12 would enhance wireless cable's ability to compete in the marketplace by providing equal access to programming at competitive prices. An increase in the subscriber base of wireless cable operators would increase the revenue available to educational institutions. Such revenue is, perhaps, the only steady income from a private sector entity available to the public schools. We in Union operate our own television studio and provide a two-year training program in communication arts and sciences. The revenue referred to above underwrites this entire program, including staff salaries and studio equipment. Over 60 youngsters are in the program at this time.

I would ask that you give consideration to this matter as you counsel the President with respect to S-12. Continued success in your work.

Warm personal regards,


JAMES M. CAULFIELD, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JMC:jb

TOWNSHIP OF UNION SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2369 MORRIS AVENUE

UNION, UNION COUNTY, N.J. 07083

The Honorable James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff to the President
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20004

CONSUMERS AGAINST CABLE MONOPOLIES, ORGANIZED

SuzAnne Baechler
Director/Founder

September 25, 1992

ATTEN: James Baker III; Council For The President

As leader of the campaign to re-elect President Bush, the following facts should be seriously considered by you in advising the President about his support for monopoly Big Business vs the American constituent consumers.

Our volunteer 5.9 million consumer member organization represents the concerns of fellow TV viewing consumers against cable monopoly business practices.

Congress has passed overwhelmingly a cable bill we the consumers support 100%. The cable bill brings a minimum amount of protection to us from the cable monopolies abuses. The bill also brings us choice through fair competition, to let us select what alternative technology delivery medium we choose, to receive television programming we select, and pay for.

President Bush has made it very clear through the Congress, press and TV media he will veto this cable bill that brings us the relief we asked Congress for. It appears the President is so out of touch with the American consumer he is unaware we, the consumers, dictated to our elected officials in Congress, what we wanted written in the cable bill. Therefore, we are quite knowledgeable about the minimal regulation and competition language in our cable bill. For the President to threaten, us the consumers, that he will veto our cable bill is suicide to his re-election. Congress listened to the consumers and supported us with the passage of the cable bill we asked for.

As advisor for the President's re-election, we recommend you suggest to him to not veto our cable bill as in November we will remember. Assuring you your assistance in this matter would be appreciated by all parties concerned. Please ask President Bush to support and sign the cable bill into law.

Respectfully;


SuzAnne Baechler

Emerald Enterprises, Inc.

A Wireless Cable TV Development Company

September 29, 1992

~~VIA FAX 202-395-3748~~ No Answer
By Federal Express 10/1

The Honorable James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff to the President
and
The Honorable Richard G. Darman
Director of the Office of Management and Budget
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20603

Gentlemen,

I want to express my urgent concern to you, as advisors to President Bush, that the President not veto S. 12.

My company (my wife and I are owners) are in the new business of wireless cable television, a business that offers consumers a choice of cable providers (thus, our dba name, Choice TV). We have an operation in Fresno, California and expect to start up several such businesses in the next couple of years.

The access to programming aspects of S. 12 are critical to the success of our industry and to our ability to provide competition to the monopoly of the major cable multiple system operators. Only with programming available to us can we provide consumers with a choice of cable programming suppliers.

Our industry:

- strongly supports education with latest technology teaching methods (based on certain FCC rules regarding use of channel capacity)
- provides competition to an unregulated monopoly
- offers consumers a choice of cable service providers
- is adding jobs every day.

Can you think of a better industry to support with a signature on a piece of legislation?

Thanks for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Robert D. Hostetler
President

RDH/JJB

Donald E. Lively 3412 Mc Ellen Ct

Lafayette, CA 94549

(510) 283 8418

2 October 1992

Mr. James Baker - Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Baker,

The Cable Reregulation Bill is lousy legislation no matter how you cut it. As a long time veteran of telecommunications...military, common carrier and manufacturing alike, I detest regulation and the social engineering bureaucracy which goes with it. Notwithstanding, I implore that you urge the President sign the bill. Two strong reasons.

One, if you do not, Gore gets a golden axe with which to hack him to pieces. A veto will simply enhance the socialist flakes' opportunity to put Cuomo on the Supreme Court...plus all the other havoc they'd wreak. Two, despite whatever political debts are owed Malone and the rest of his cable cabal, the President must not be seen as identifying with these Hollywood whores and thugs. Much the free marketer I am, this is the junk bond and sleazy show biz crowd, and they are not the kind of entrepreneurs Mr. Bush can be identified with.

As a former local CATV commissioner, I learned first hand the sort of hard ball they play...they are ruthless and without scruples when it comes to treating customers fairly in their monopoly position.

In 1984, my basic cable rate was less than \$7 dollars, today it is over \$20. I get fewer over the air stations, channel positions have been corrupted so my pre "cable ready" VCR is not able to receive certain over the air channels, and many basic tier satellite offerings have been subsumed by pay or premium channels.

I don't know who the senior advisors are that urge a veto, but clearly they do not have a feeling for the outrage that voters have for the cable industry. No doubt the "watch my" issue hangs over Mr. Bush's head on this matter, his opposition to regulation and more bureaucracy (which I devoutly share), and continuing the status quo, hoping for competition to take hold (especially given the Brooks MFJ bill), is whistling in the dark. In ten years, the Telcos will still not be carrying TV.

Please urge him to sign the bill, go to the people, explain why and pick up some votes that are sorely needed.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Lively 3412 Mc Ellen Ct

Lafayette, CA 94549

(510) 283 8418

2 October 1992

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Bush,

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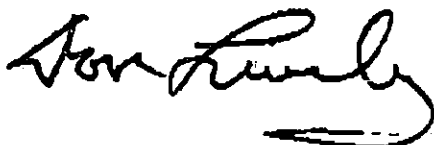
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Please sign the bill, go to the people, explain why and you will pick up some votes you sorely need.

Sincerely,



Donald Lively

September 25, 1992

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff to the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Baker:

It was with great satisfaction that I learned that the House and Senate last week passed their respective versions of the Cable Reregulation legislation. At the same time, though, I am anxious that the President, who says he is for competition and against government regulation of the marketplace, will use his veto power to nullify this badly needed legislation.

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I speak as an American consumer. Help competition thrive in the wireless cable marketplace. Please don't veto this legislation.

Sincerely,



JOHN C. McLEAN
1610 E. BILBOUST.
CO SPRGS. CO. 80909



The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff to the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20503



September 25, 1992

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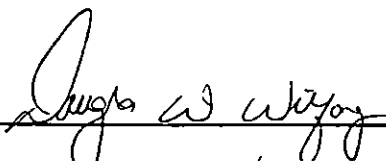
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6175 Mack-1 Dr.
Bellevue, WA 98005



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Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20503



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38 N Amherst

Cow Specs Co 80911



The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff to the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20503



September 25, 1992

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17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20503

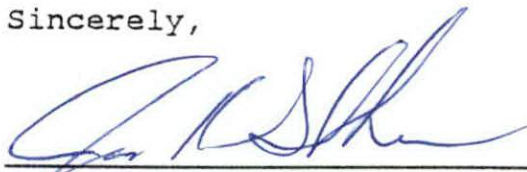
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12670 VOLLMER RD.

BLACK FOREST, CO. 80908