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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 100TH CONGRESS

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ACTION REMARKS BY MR. MacKAY

LEGISLATION CONCERNING SATELLITE DISHES

HON. BUDDY MacKAY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 1988

Mr MACKAY Mr Speaker, on March 22, Congressman OLIN held a special order on the issue of satellite dishes Due to the concerns of many of my constituents, and the unfairness of the current situation, I would like to add to the remarks that were made on that day

H R 1885 and H R 2848 represent opportunities for Congress to rectify an inconsistency in our free enterprise system By taking up these bills, Congress can pass legislation that actually helps open up the satellite programming market in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner

While some may argue that the market will correct itself, I must argue that this problem is such that technology has not only outpaced current legislation, it has outpaced the market system itself In such a situation, it is up to Congress to make the necessary corrections.

It is important to realize that satellite dish owners are not asking for any special treatment. These people are simply asking for us to put an end to the current discrimination that is being practiced As my colleagues have stated, the right to purchase goods and services without discrimination is fundamental to our country, and this right must be established for satellite dish owners. Dish owners are not asking for a free ride, they are asking only that they not be charged more than their counterparts in the cable market.

This legislation would permit programmers the right to protect their products and would also ensure that rural dish owners are able to receive programming through an orderly marketing system, at reasonable and equitable rates. While I agree that it is not the job of the Congress to set prices, we do have the duty to see that the system works fairly for everyone