



**MEREDITH CORPORATION, THE OWNER OF CBS AFFILIATE WFSB CHANNEL 3,  
PULLS ITS STATION FROM OPTIMUM CUSTOMERS IN CONNECTICUT**

***Optimum Customers in Fairfield County Continue to Have Access to WCBS***

**January 13, 2017** – Despite Altice USA’s willingness to pay a significant increase for carriage of WFSB Channel 3 CBS, Meredith Corporation, the media conglomerate that owns the station, has pulled its programming from Optimum’s Connecticut customers as it seeks an outrageous increase in retransmission fees. Meredith Corp. has also denied Altice USA’s request to keep WFSB on while negotiations continue, abruptly removing the station from Optimum’s Connecticut TV lineup, which leaves a small number of customers in Litchfield and New Haven Counties without any CBS programming. The vast majority of Optimum’s Connecticut customers, which live in Fairfield County, continue to have access to CBS programming on WCBS.

Customers in Litchfield and New Haven Counties interested in watching CBS programming, including football, can contact Optimum to receive 1 free week of the CBS All Access internet service; more details are available on [www.optimum.net/onourside](http://www.optimum.net/onourside). In addition, CBS content is available for free over the air via digital antennas.

Altice USA issued the following statement:

“We have already offered to pay Meredith Corporation, the media conglomerate that owns WFSB Channel 3 CBS, a significant increase in retransmission fees for the channel. Unfortunately, Meredith Corp. has pulled WFSB from our Optimum lineups in Connecticut in an attempt to force us and our customers to pay millions more in fees, even as the number of Optimum customers who watch WFSB has consistently declined over the past three years.

Skyrocketing programming costs, particularly those charged by broadcasters, are the greatest contributor to rising cable bills, and we are working hard to keep those costs as low as possible for our customers. We call on Meredith Corp. to immediately return WFSB to our Optimum lineup, stop putting customers in the middle, and work with us on an agreement that is fair to our Connecticut customers.”

Meredith Corp. is demanding a higher rate for WFSB than what we pay for any other broadcast station across the entire Optimum footprint, even as the number of Optimum customers who watch WFSB has consistently declined over the past three years. They are also requiring our Fairfield customers to pay for WFSB in addition to their in-market WCBS station – or twice for essentially the same CBS programming – which would be unprecedented in this market.

Meredith Corp. has a history of pulling its station from our customers during contract negotiations. In 2014, Meredith Corp. blacked out WFSB Channel 3 from Optimum customers in Connecticut, leaving our Litchfield and New Haven customers without access to any CBS programming for two weeks before finally returning the channel to our lineup.

***Retransmission Rate Increases***

The owners of local broadcast stations (such as Meredith Corp.) charge distributors (such as Altice USA) retransmission fees to carry their stations even though their content is available for free over the air. The cost to carry these stations continues to rise with broadcasters demanding higher fees which, in turn, leads to rising costs for consumers. With broadcasters having content available for free over the internet, and over the air via an antenna, we are working to keep retransmission costs down for our customers. Broadcast content has also become more readily available via many over-the-top services, such as CBS All Access.

## **About Altice USA**

Altice USA, a subsidiary of Altice Group (Euronext: ATC, ATCB), is the fourth largest cable operator in the United States, delivering residential and business services to 4.6 million customers across 20 states. Providing high-quality products that keep customers connected, Altice USA (through its Optimum, Lightpath and Suddenlink brands) offers digital cable television, high-speed internet, voice, WiFi and advertising services. For more information, visit [www.alticeusa.com](http://www.alticeusa.com).

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