



**STATEMENT ON MEREDITH CORPORATION, THE OWNER OF CBS AFFILIATE WFSB CHANNEL 3,  
THREATENING TO PULL ITS STATION FROM OPTIMUM CUSTOMERS IN CONNECTICUT**

**January 8, 2017** – Meredith Corporation, the media conglomerate and owner of CBS affiliate WFSB Channel 3 in Connecticut, is threatening to pull its station from Optimum customers in Connecticut unless Altice USA agrees to a significant increase in retransmission fees. Altice USA wants to keep WFSB Channel 3 on and is currently in negotiations with Meredith Corporation. The current agreement does not expire until January 13.

Altice USA issued the following statement:

“We want to carry WFSB Channel 3 at a reasonable rate and have already offered them an increase in retransmission fees. However, Meredith Corporation, the media conglomerate that owns CBS affiliate WFSB Channel 3, is threatening to pull its station from our Optimum lineups in Connecticut in an attempt to force us and our customers to pay even more -- an outrageous nearly 300 percent increase in fees for the exact same programming they currently deliver.

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. This behavior is anti-consumer, and we urge Meredith Corp. to stop the threats and leave WFSB on while we negotiate an agreement that is fair for our Connecticut Optimum customers.”

The number of Optimum customers watching WFSB has consistently declined over the past three years, yet Altice USA has offered to pay a fair market rate for carriage of WFSB in Litchfield County and three New Haven County towns where the channel is the in-market CBS affiliate. Meredith Corporation wants even more money, nearly four times what Altice USA currently pays. Meredith also wants 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.

The company notes that, if WFSB pulls its signal, the overwhelming majority of our Connecticut customers, which reside in Fairfield County, will continue to have access to CBS programming on WCBS.

Meredith Corporation has a history of pulling its station from our customers during contract negotiations. In 2014, Meredith 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 Corporation) 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, including CBS All Access.

For more details, Optimum customers in Connecticut can visit [www.optimum.net/onyourside](http://www.optimum.net/onyourside)

**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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