

From: Erica Beam
Sent: 17 December 2003 16:35
To: BBC Charter Review
Subject: BBC Charter Review Consultation

Mr. Cooper,
I live in the United States and was fortunate to have my mother introduce me to BBC television when I was a young child. For many years I have supported public television because of the quality BBC programming it provides. Three years ago, when my family switched from cable to satellite, I was thrilled to finally have BBC America in my home.

I have been a fan of EastEnders for almost 20 years and was delighted to have current episodes of this show to watch. Imagine my dismay when BBC America pulled EastEnders, it's only original program from it's lineup.

I have not watched Discovery Networks' channels, including BBC America, since September 27, 2003, when EastEnders last aired. I (and many other people living in the US) will not watch again until it is either returned to the lineup or provided to us in some other format such as Video on Demand or over the Internet.

David Bernath told supporters of the show that there is no room in the schedule for EastEnders, yet almost all of BBC America's programming consists of repeat shows. Even before EastEnders was pulled so unceremoniously from the lineup, I had tired of watching endless repeats of Changing Rooms, House Invaders and the like.

As most Americans, watching dated comedies on public television did associate the BBC with "repeats". I was enjoying the more current slice of British life that BBC America provided, but as it turns out, that network appears to be just as stale as the rest of American television.

Any input you might have in returning EastEnders and providing other quality programming to your (former) viewers in the US would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time,
Erica Beam