

January 20, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution-Response to White Paper #6

Dear Sir,

This is in regards to Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution-Response to White Paper #6. The question of "Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?"

There are many good reasons why cable systems should continue to provide access to their systems to community access TV (PEG). Covering all of them would make for a very lengthy document. So I will focus on a few of the more appealing reasons.

First off, I will say that the kind of content being generated by PEG is not comparable to most locally generated content available on the Internet. There are, of course, exceptions to this. But generally, the kind of productions the professional PEG channels in our area generate cannot be duplicated by the average hobbyist. PEG also operates under rules and bylaws that don't apply to an individual. This leads to a certain level of quality and responsibility. For example, our local government channel offers gavel-to-gavel coverage of almost every town meeting. Individuals filming the meeting for a particular topic they are interested in will only present that specific content online.

Another wonderful result of PEG existence and carriage is that local, state, and federal officials, have an outlet to communicate with local constituents that is provided at no-charge to these officials or at the expense of tax payers. Local debates, that may not draw the attention of larger news outlets, are filmed and broadcast to the local communities. A recent debate in our area between Ted Kennedy, Jr. (D) and Bruce Wilson, Jr. (R), was filmed (with multiple cameras and professional audio) in its entirety by Branford Community Television (BCTV). No other local media outlets had the resources to cover the debate completely (as local television broadcasters are operating with skeleton crews due to revenue loss). Due to the widespread interest in one of the candidates (and his family), several media outlets had no other option but to turn to BCTV for more in-depth coverage.

I will remind you that PEG exists more because of the public right-of-way than anything else. The limitations on competition in the cable TV industry come from the necessity of running actual cables on

telephone poles that are in the right-of-way. Because of these physical limitations, Cable systems operate like local mini-monopolies without any direct competition from other Cable operators in most areas. In return, they should give something back to the communities that own those telephone poles. PEG is the biggest way Cable operators give back.

In closing, I'd add that the costs and inconvenience that PEG support causes Cable operators is very negligible, and has little to no impact on their bottom line. The minimal costs related to supporting PEG is passed on directly to cable subscribers. I've never met anyone that dropped their cable service because of that \$0.74/month "franchise related costs" line of their bill here in Branford, CT. I imagine you'd be hard pressed to find resounding support from the masses in the effort to remove this fee from their cable bills.

That also forces me to question who originally thought of this question found in White Paper #6 and why? Discontinuing support of PEG by Cable operators seems like it would only benefit Cable operators. Please do what is in the best interest of the American citizen and continue PEG support, even if it continues to put Cable operators under a very minor and fair burden.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas Sisson

Programming Coordinator – Branford Community Television (BCTV)



The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
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Cor Trowbridge

E-mail
[REDACTED]

Transmitted on 1/22/15 by email to: CommActUpdate@mail.house.gov

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution:
Response to White Paper #6

Dear Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee,

Our PEG Access center, **Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV)**, openly and equitably serves all the residents, schools, municipalities and nonprofits in our region. Your Committee has questioned whether PEG channels is a community service that still serves any need now that the Internet is so widespread, and our answer to that is a very strong “yes.”

We are one of 25 PEG Access Centers in Vermont, the most rural of all the states. Because BCTV is located in the southern part of the state, our channels are the only source of local television, as there is no commercial TV that covers our region. Residents of southern Windham County rely on BCTV to provide news, local coverage of town and school meetings, community events, lectures, performances and student broadcasts from the high school. Those without access to cable watch our shows online.

We strongly encourage your Committee to help PEG Access, our channels and our funding survive and thrive by incorporating PEG into Internet broadband legislation, as it has been allowed to do under the Cable Communications Act of 1984.

Since 1976, we have been not only meeting our primary obligation to cable television subscribers with 24/7 programming on our two cable TV channels, but also serving everyone in our region by making available the free non-commercial use of our studio facilities, free and low-cost training, equipment lending, and distribution of local, original video productions on the Internet.

Most importantly, anyone seeking news and information about our region can see our programs online through our website: <http://www.brattleborotv.org>. We invite you to go there to see the quality and breadth of our local video library.

We have already embraced the Internet as an essential partner in serving our community, but increasingly we will need to rely on it more to replace the funding we’ll be losing from the cable operator’s TV revenues as more and more people watch their video on the Internet and drop their cable TV subscriptions. Please maintain PEG Access funding and distribution on the Internet and all commercial video service providers.

Sincerely,
Cor Trowbridge, Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Peter Welch
c/o [REDACTED]



January 23, 2015

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
Communications and Technology Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clarke,

As the Community Access Organization for Brooklyn (CAO), we write to express the importance of ensuring that New York City's CAOs, and our respective roles in helping to bridge the digital divide in our neighborhoods, are prioritized as potential changes in the media landscape are considered. We are certain that we share with you a common commitment to addressing the inequities in access to broadband and information technology. The community media centers run by our CAOs are critical resources in the struggle to expand access for all New Yorkers.

As Congress and other regulatory bodies evaluate the current state of our communications system and its great potential for good in our communities, it is critical that you communicate your support of New York's CAOs as providers of technical education and access.

Community Media centers, like BRIC, Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Bronxnet, Staten Island Community Television and Queens Public Television, offer digital media training to thousands of New Yorkers every year. Our agreements with cable franchise holders allow us to partner with the New York City public school system, the Brooklyn Public Library and other institutions to provide free technical training for New Yorkers, particularly in digitally under-served neighborhoods. We are the primary source of training in use of the audiovisual equipment our New Yorkers *need* to function as full citizens in modern society. Comparable training often costs thousands of dollars per class and would otherwise create two distinct classes of citizens—those with a voice and those too poor to have their needs and dreams heard. Our media training provides a valuable opportunity to gain tangible skills. CAOs also provide tens of thousands of hours of programming on the New York's Public Access television channels, allowing local and diverse voices – often with a public interest focus – to have a place in our city's media. These programs are also streamed on the internet and provide much needed linkage between our residents and related communities around the world.

The community forum we operate does much more than entertain. In the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, BRIC provided valuable, life-saving communications resources for the people of Brooklyn. As Brooklyn neighborhoods struggled to rebuild after the floods, BRIC staff and community producers moved in to provide an organized, Brooklyn-centric source of information for connecting those in need with relief efforts. In the days and months following Sandy, BRIC cablecast more than *three hundred hours of hurricane coverage specific to Brooklyn*. BRIC produced the series *Brooklyn Storms Back*,

647 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217
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BRICartsmedia.org

covering the hard hit areas of Canarsie, Mill Basin, Red Hook and Coney Island. In doing so, we created a quick way to connect people with volunteer efforts in these neighborhoods.

This coverage was possible *only* because we had already taught Brooklynites to use these tools of communication and because our cable channels had become familiar to the community over our 25 years of operation. We continue this commitment to providing tools and rebuilding community as we begin new video and media training at the post-Sandy renovated Coney Island Branch library.

We believe that any changed media environment must include continued financial support for the vital training, production and distribution services now provided to under-served communities by New York's CAOs. In Brooklyn and the outer boroughs, we are responsible for the only hyper-local media coverage in communities dominated by national and international media companies. It is essential that local community access cable channels be easily accessed by the public. The community's channels must be broadcast with the same clean signal and the same digital functions as commercial channels. This is consistent with the agreements cable broadband providers signed to gain use of public rights-of-way.

These issues are critical in addressing the digital divide as a mechanism for achieving equality. Congress has considerable leverage at this juncture if it underscores the importance of maintaining the existing bandwidth and financial support of the Community Access Organizations as a fair counterbalance to media consolidation and deregulation.

Community Access is an invaluable public resource and a public trust in an age of dramatic change.

We look forward with great pleasure to working with you and the Committee to help achieve these goals for our community.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Leslie G. Schultz.

Leslie G. Schultz
President
BRIC

Cc:

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chair
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution – Response to White Paper #6

Dear Congressman Upton:

BronxNet, the non-profit, independent public access and community television station serving the borough of the Bronx in New York City, programs four channels – 67, 68, 69 and 70 – on the Cablevision system and six channels – 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 on the Verizon FiOS system.

BronxNet provides local television by the people of the Bronx, for the people of the Bronx in several ways including:

- Creating and producing public affairs programming addressing the concerns, interests and cultures of the people of the Bronx;
- Providing training and state-of-the-art technology for individual residents and non-profit organizations who in turn produce their own programs that air on the channels;
- Educating and training high school and college students in technical, artistic, managerial and editorial areas of television production and broadcasting, in preparation for entry into mainstream media, and to create youth programs for the channels.

To date, thousands of people have been trained in television production and hundreds of former BronxNet interns have obtained high-level positions at major media outlets such as CBS, ABC, NBC, ESPN and many more, as a result of their BronxNet experience. BronxNet signature programs have largely contributed to community development in the borough.

BronxNet channels are available to over 350,000 Bronx homes. The channels are highly regarded. In an independent market research survey, 60% of Bronx residents said they watch BronxNet. Tens of thousands of people are sharing information on issues and solutions to problems that concern them.

In response to the particular section of White Paper # 6 that states, “Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?” Please note that while the Internet also serves as a useful vehicle for spreading the information shared on the channels, tens of thousands of Bronxites still watch and rely on the channels. The channels and accompanying production resources have been vital to the success of our workforce development initiatives. As a result, BronxNet individuals who started their media careers at BronxNet, like NBC’s Today in NY Co-Anchor Darlene Rodriguez, NY1 Criminal Justice Reporter Dean Meminger and CBS Supervising Editor Lesley Peggott and many others have become role models in a competitive industry.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Michael Max Knobbe
Executive Director

[REDACTED]

From: E Wayles Browne [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 9:27 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Cc: E Wayles Browne
Subject: Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee,
I understand you have been considering whether there is a need for updates to the Communications Act. Your recent paper number 6 asks among other things:
"Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?"

I can testify to the need for PEG (public, educational, and governmental) access to cable system channels as we see it in our city of Ithaca, NY and county of Tompkins. Local governments such as the City of Ithaca and the County Legislature telecast their meetings and many members of the public watch. Both officials and viewers find this to be an important source of information and cohesion. If we were left with only a satellite TV system behind a pay wall, we would get commercial-supported national programming but no system would bring local events to local voters and constituents.

Ithaca, NY is the home to two large educational institutions. Cornell is the larger one, and Ithaca College is the smaller one, but is the one with a focus on teaching media and television production. It helps I.C. greatly to be able to put its students' programs--local sports, local news, local variety shows--out to a local audience beyond the college campus itself. A satellite system, or a cable system without local connections, would be of much less use to I.C. Local K-through-12 schools and the Board of Education itself originate programming and broadcast meetings, so that the public is much better informed about how its school taxes are used than it would be without PEG access.

Public access is what I know about the most. I am on the committee that oversees PEG channels on Time Warner Cable, but I am now speaking as a private citizen. My wife and many of my friends and acquaintances produce both interview shows and artistic programs that draw great local interest. People--even strangers--stop her and her guests on the street saying that they have "seen them on TV," that is, watched the programs. During the time of the war in Iraq, the Republican Party candidate for Mayor of Ithaca signed out a camera from the PEG studio, flew to Iraq, and brought back interviews with American soldiers about their achievements there. There is now a successor program to his, known as "Right Angle." Several local churches telecast their religious services, thanks to the availability of the public access channel. Again, their parishoners

and the local community are highly interested in watching these, but it is unlikely that a profit-making national satellite or cable service would pick them up.

My conclusion is that cable systems should continue "to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways," including specifically PEG channels, which need to be broadcast on an equal basis with the rest of the channels. The burden to the cable systems is negligible and the public benefit is large. These provisions are still warranted in the era of the Internet.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Yours sincerely,
Wayles Browne

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



BCAC TV
CHANNEL 11

Butte Community Access Center

OFFICE

500 Main St.
Chico, California 95926

PHONE

530-228-2860

FAX

530-342-8243

EMAIL

WEB

www.friendsoftheartsupstate.org

Friends of the Arts is the popular name of Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation, a 501c3 dedicated to social, cultural and educational endeavors. BCAC is a project under UCEF.



Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation

Funded in part by private business, individuals and the California Arts Council, a state agency; The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Oroville's Supplemental Benefit Fund & Public, Education & Government (PEG) fees for public access television.

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Dear Honorable Congressmen:

PEG access are still necessary and warranted today. In some communities, particularly rural ones, PEG channels are the ONLY source of local programming other than the local broadcast news with 30-second soundbites on local topics. Additionally, many of our communities are still without internet service. Our channel, newly acquired in cooperation with the City of Chico in rural Northern California, is gearing up to provide digital media arts training for at-risk youth. The loss of cable access would be detrimental to the continued vitality of our PEG operations and a net loss to the local community and nonprofit service realm. Our build-out plan includes "studio" concepts on high school campuses to allow for original content to be both cablecast and webcast (where available). This allows for students (already submerged in a digital world) to learn the art of storytelling and to become familiar with the idea of community. Student teams will cover everything from the ballet and the opening of an art gallery to Friday night basketball or the League of Women Voters candidates forum.

Never before have PEG fees been more leveraged. Digital storytelling is essential in our local communities. Training in this vocation provides community members as well as youth with valuable job skills. PEG supports localism in ways that other media cannot. For instance, every day, without fanfare, local nonprofits work hard to fulfill their missions, from celebrating the arts, sciences and Chico's heritage, to meeting the needs of our area's underserved. But getting the word out to those who need their services, or who want to visit, donate or volunteer, is a constant challenge. Our PEG channel helps with this process, working with nonprofits to get out the word.

On our channel, you will see what Chico-area non-profits are doing, watch a short video about each, hear the stories of those who interact with galleries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, educational institutions, children's services and more. BCAC's goal is to find innovative ways to help non-profits expand their outreach in challenging economic times. Community support comes with interaction and understanding. We currently have nearly 7,000 people on our email list and have been doing regional events and community service work for

more than a decade. We are also specialists in storytelling and can do so in compelling ways - both socially and traditionally.

This PEG channel system is an excellent way to fund a training ground of community volunteers and students. Our particular channel is part of a network of public access and community radio partners in the North State. We are really the ONLY local voices left - run by volunteer programmers and an occasional paid support technician. Our sustainability plan is to partner with like-minded groups - like Arts Councils - to propel this important work forward.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope you will hear the voice of the people - those who are not corporate citizens but just plain citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Debra Lucero.

Debra Lucero
Executive Director
Butte Community Access Channel

cc: Honorable Congressman Doug LaMalfa



Cambridge
Community
Television

The Voice and Vision of Cambridge

438 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

v: 617 661-6900

f: 617 661-6927

Channels 8, 9, & 96

www.cctvcambridge.org

January 21, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Greg Walden

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Cambridge Community Television is the community media center serving Cambridge, MA. In our 27-year history, we have reached into every corner of this city, not only providing media production services and training to hundreds of organizations and thousands of members, but to tens of thousands of Comcast cable subscribers who rely upon CCTV's channels for the local programming that they cannot see anywhere else. In the shadow of the Boston media market, CCTV and our sister channels, Cambridge Educational Access and the City's 22CityView, bring local news, culture, sports, opinion, public affairs programming and entertainment into 33,000 homes in Cambridge.

CCTV is a most valued, beloved, and irreplaceable Cambridge content provider. One of our viewers said, "CCTV is not just a critical piece of Cambridge's unique spirit--it's the best thing on TV. It's the single reason I pay for cable service." Another said, "Most tv is horrible, but CCTV has a good thing going."

A democracy relies on an informed and engaged citizenry. Cable television, particularly local PEG channels, remains a critical source for many - the people of Cambridge would be ill-served if this vital platform, tailored to our community, were swept away. I urge you to retain PEG channel access requirements.

Sincerely,

Susan Fleischmann
Executive Director



**10 Hilltop Drive. Highland Heights, KY 41076
859-781-3495. www.campbellmedia.org**

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs:

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Campbell County Media Central is a service of the Campbell County Cable Board which provides many valuable resources to the Campbell County community and Northern Kentucky. We provide services to thirteen communities in the county. To fully understand and appreciate how valuable our programming is and how it is the only TRUE LOCAL programming in our area, understand that we are a community across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, OH. As such, our citizens are exposed to local broadcasts being all about Cincinnati and not so much about the communities they reside in.

From the time the Board began in 1983 it has been providing the community wonderful resources through our cable channels, not to mention all of the resources available through our media center. Media Central provides resources to schools, churches, the police departments, the fire departments, citizens, local government agencies and other nonprofit service providers. Campbell County Media Central has over **1,085 producers**.

The Campbell County community is proud of the media opportunities and services which have been provided to our citizens. The public's right to informed participation in local government, and local community affairs, through public, educational, and governmental media access should not be lightly dismissed. Indeed, the importance of an informed citizenry in government and community affairs is the core of all of our Federal and State Constitutional rights and privileges.

Some of the services offered by CCMC include: local sports coverage (high school, collegiate and semi pro), local music festivals, county fair, parades, Memorial Day events, media clubs, religious services, civic engagement programs, health programs (mental and physical), drug prevention programming, cooking shows, live election coverage and candidate debates, Christmas and holiday programming, agricultural programming and so much more!



**10 Hilltop Drive. Highland Heights, KY 41076
859-781-3495. www.campbellmedia.org**

The Campbell County community wants you to know that Public, Educational and Government Access is a high priority to them. They have made a solid investment to ensure the quality of programming we provide is top notch. Providing access to cable channels is extremely important. The demographic in our area finds so much of the information about our community through our local cable channels. Without these channels, our community's identity will be lost.

Campbell County Media Central remains committed to providing high quality, informative, and valuable public services to the Campbell County community but only through protection of our cable channels can this service be successful. We respectfully request you consider this as you look at regulation of the market for video content and distribution.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted Name]
Executive Director
Campbell County Media Central

[REDACTED]

From: Val Carpenter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 8:09 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Cc: Shelley Wolfe; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Gentlemen:

I understand that the Energy & Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is debating whether to no longer require cable companies to provide public access channels or make PEG fee payments to support public, educational or governmental programming.

As a registered Republican, senior executive in Silicon Valley, elected mayor and city council member, and Board of Directors member of a regional community media non-profit organization, I believe strongly that it would not be in the best interest of the people of the United States to deregulate this particular sector. The private sector, and specifically the Internet, cannot provide the services to the public that community media organizations do today and will continue to provide for the foreseeable future, particularly to those on the wrong side of the digital divide.

A quick look at the home page of KMVT 15 Silicon Valley Community Media at www.kmvt15.org will give you an overview of the broad range of programs that these non-profit organizations offer, often at little or no cost to participants.

I urge you to give no further consideration to deregulating the market for video content and distribution as detailed in white paper #6.

Thank you for your service to our country and our citizens.

Best,

Val Carpenter

Mayor of Los Altos, California 2011-12 & 2007-08



www.ValCarpenter.com

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

"Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?"

Honorable Senator Upton,

I believe that Public Educational and Government Access Centers and the cablecast channels they operate provide great services to the communities they are located within.

Today I am writing you from Fort Wayne Indiana where there are 5 channels serving all areas of PEG.

The Allen County Public Library runs 2 Public Access channels at the local access center Access Fort Wayne (AFW) where members of the community can go get personalized video training and media literacy outreach that is an immeasurable value to the city, especially the working class and poor. Over the years that Access Fort Wayne has been in operation they have trained hundreds of people on how to operate a wide variety of the tools and techniques of dealing with multimedia. Many of those people who have been members of the Access center, either as volunteers or interns, have gone on to get jobs in media thanks to the training and experience they gained.

Access Fort Wayne also runs a Government Access channel that provides the citizens of Allen County and Fort Wayne with access to information about the activities being carried out by the county and city governments. These services are available to citizens to watch on cable tv as well as Video on Demand streaming from the internet. This helps keep even members of the community who are restricted to the home for any reason aware of news and events in the community that are relevant to everyone.

Finally, Fort Wayne is fortunate to have two Educational Access Cable channels, run by the local Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) and the Fort Wayne Community School Corporation (FWCS). These Educational Access channels serve a multitude of purposes for the community, much like the Public and Government Access channels do. They help support the infrastructure of media training within FWCS by offering trained media professionals that can work with the schools, from elementary to high school, in matters so diverse as keeping up with the fast paced changes of media technologies and the tried and true techniques of camera and video creation. The Educational Access channels serve as a valuable resource keeping the community connected with events at the schools as well as allowing the students creating video to have a platform to distribute content that reaches even homes that are without current computer equipment or internet access capable of streaming video.

Numbers alone do not convey the service that PEG Access provides to Fort Wayne and Allen County Indiana. The personal impact is so much more than can be seen through the perspective of the dollar. Members of this community have come to depend upon the human connection to technology that PEG brings.

[REDACTED]

From: p cass [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 12:31 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Subject: PEG in your community by Friday Januar

Please keep Peg in my area,

Paul Cass

From: Tony Campos [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 1:30 PM
To: CommActUpdate; Satalin, Patrick; Satalin, Patrick; CommActUpdate@mail.house.gov
Subject: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6
Attachments: MONTE-1.02,_Charter_Subscribers_TV_&_Broadband,_2003-2013.pdf; VHS_supportsCVTV.pdf; Plainfield 2014.jpeg

Central Vermont Community Television
The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Transmitted on January 23, 2015 by email to: CommActUpdate@mail.house.gov

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Dear Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee,

Our PEG Access center, CVTV openly and equitably serves all the residents, schools, municipalities and nonprofits in our region. Your Committee has questioned whether PEG channels is a community service that still serves any need now that the Internet is so widespread, and our answer to that is a very strong “yes.”

We are one of 25 PEG Access Centers in Vermont, the most rural of all the states. Because the few broadcast TV channels we have can’t cover the state as well as we can, folks here rely on us to provide hyper-local coverage of town and school meetings, community and student events, lectures, performances and a whole host of other types of programming.

We strongly encourage your Committee to help PEG Access, our channels and our funding survive and thrive by incorporating PEG into Internet broadband legislation, as it has been allowed to do under the Cable Communications Act of 1984.

Since 1992, we have been not only meeting our primary obligation to cable television subscribers with 24/7 programming on our 194 cable TV channel 192, but also serving everyone in our region by making available the free non-commercial use of our studio facilities, free and low-cost training, equipment lending, and distribution of local, original video productions on the Internet.

Most importantly, anyone in our region, in Vermont or even around the world who has Internet access can see our programs through links on our website

<http://cvtv723.org/> .We invite you to go there to see the quality and breadth of our community service.

We have already embraced the Internet as an essential partner in serving our community, but increasingly we will need to rely on it more to replace the funding we'll be losing from the cable operator's TV revenues as more and more people watch their video on the Internet and drop their cable TV subscriptions. Please maintain PEG Access funding and distribution on the Internet and all commercial video service providers.

Sincerely,

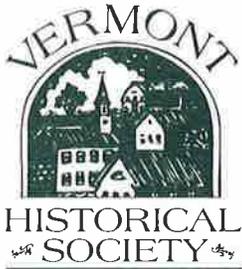
Anthony Campos

Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Peter Welch

c/o 

Tony Campos



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heritage since 1838*

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Administration and Library**

Vermont History Center
60 Washington Street
Barre, VT 05641-4209
Phone: (802) 479-8500
Fax: (802) 479-8510

Museum and Bookstore

Pavilion Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0901
Phone: (802) 828-2291
Fax: (802) 828-1415

Email: vhs-info@state.vt.us
Website: vermonthistory.org

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PAST PRESIDENT

Sarah L. Dopp, South Burlington

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark S. Hudson, Barre

July 8, 2014

Tony Campos, Executive Director
Central Vermont Community Television
386 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Tony,

We are excited to learn that there are plans to expand and improve CVTV's services to meet communication and cable-related needs for the surrounding Central Vermont communities. We support your efforts and would like to provide this letter of support.

You approached the Vermont Historical Society several years ago knowing that we house content here at the Vermont History Center—content that would be of interest to your viewers. As a result, your organization has trained our staff to utilize video equipment to record our programs and presentations, and because you are willing to share that historical content with your viewers, we are now sharing Vermont's heritage with a far larger audience. And in the future, there are plans to replay these on our website and further expand to an even broader audience.

CVTV has helped us in our mission: *Our purpose is to reach a broad audience through our outstanding collections, statewide outreach, and dynamic programming. We believe that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.*

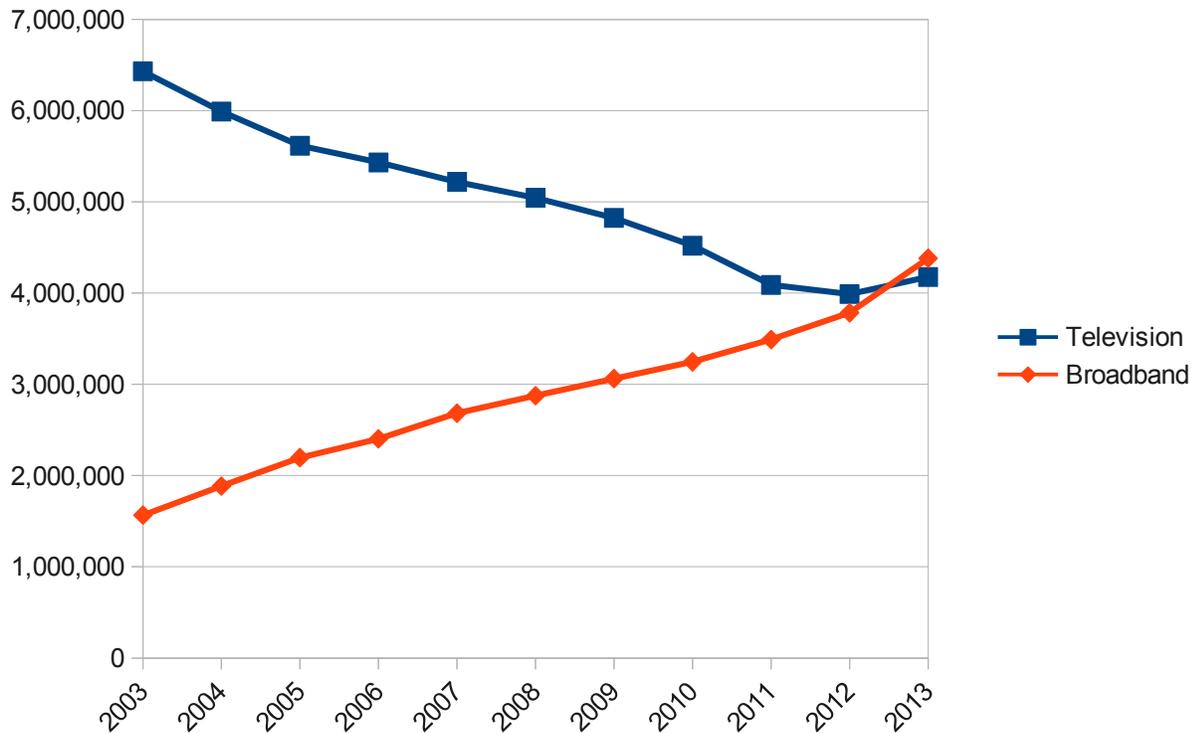
Thank you. We entrust that Charter Communications, as part of their mission of service to our community, will continue to grow and thrive with you


Mark S. Hudson
Executive Director

Charter Subscribers

(as reported by Charter in its SEC 10-K filings)

	Television	Broadband
12/31/2003	6,431,300	1,565,600
12/31/2004	5,991,500	1,884,400
12/31/2005	5,616,300	2,196,400
12/31/2006	5,433,300	2,402,200
12/31/2007	5,219,900	2,682,500
12/31/2008	5,045,700	2,875,200
12/31/2009	4,824,000	3,062,300
12/31/2010	4,520,400	3,246,100
12/31/2011	4,090,300	3,491,800
12/31/2012	3,989,000	3,785,000
12/31/2013	4,177,000	4,383,000





**CenturyLink Response to House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Sixth White Paper re Communications Act Reform –
Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution**

CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States and is recognized as a leader in the network services market by technology industry analyst firms. The company is a global leader in cloud infrastructure and hosted IT solutions for enterprise customers. CenturyLink provides data, voice and managed services in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers for businesses and consumers. CenturyLink also provides video service primarily over a fiber-optic IPTV platform branded as PrismTV.

CenturyLink is, however, a relatively new entrant in the video distribution market in providing its PrismTV video services. It provides video services to approximately 229,000 customers and continues to add video customers.¹

In the markets where it is available, PrismTV provides significant competition and consumer choice, generally offering the only facilities-based alternative to incumbent cable operators for the bundles of video, broadband, and voice that consumers increasingly demand. Even so, the rapid rise in the cost of content – and, in particular, the steadily rising fees that CenturyLink must pay for retransmission of local broadcasting signals – threatens CenturyLink’s ability to provide competitive video services. Over the last four years, the retransmission fees paid by CenturyLink have grown approximately 145%, ranging from increases of 20% to 733% depending on the broadcast station.

Given the current market and legislative framework, CenturyLink has no realistic alternative to paying these fees. The majority of consumers consider the major network programming that local broadcasters deliver “must-have.” Especially given its status as a new entrant, CenturyLink must provide this programming if it hopes to compete for subscribers.²

¹ CenturyLink Inc. Press Release, *CenturyLink Reports Solid Third Quarter 2014 Results* (November 5, 2014), available at <http://ir.centurylink.com/Cache/1001191887.PDF?Y=&O=PDF&D=&fid=1001191887&T=&iid=4057179>.

² As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) has recognized: “Local broadcast programming is highly valued by consumers . . . [C]arriage of local television broadcast station signals is critical to MVPD offerings.” *General Motors Corp. and Hughes Electronics Corp. (Transferors) and The News Corporation Ltd. (Transferee) For Authority To Transfer Control*, MB Docket No. 03-124, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 473,

The 1992 Cable Act must be reformed to permit new entrants to compete on a more equitable basis. Programmers have little incentive to offer fair and reasonable terms to new entrants, which effectively deprives consumers of the benefits of competition. In fact under the current regime, programmers and broadcasters are incented to charge disproportionately higher rates to new entrants on the calculus that with every customer dislodged from incumbent distributors, the per unit revenue associated with distributing their programming will rise and thereby drive overall wholesale market costs higher, disadvantaging consumers of content regardless of multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD) source.

Specifically, CenturyLink urges Congress to take a deregulatory approach under which the 1992 Cable Act would be amended to allow providers the right to carry national programming from an adjacent or alternate market or source during a broadcast retransmission consent negotiation breakdown. The balance of negotiating power between broadcasters and MVPDs could be at least partially restored by amending the law to allow video providers to carry national broadcast programming from an alternate market or source and to otherwise prohibit marketplace activity that has the result of effectively limiting access to such alternate markets or sources during a broadcast retransmission negotiation impasse. Consumers would be protected from blackouts and fair negotiations would aid in controlling programming costs.

CenturyLink, like others, does not seek to avoid paying reasonable rates for its broadcast content, regardless of source, but we do seek fair retransmission consent rules that will not be unfairly leveraged against consumers and competitive new entrants. Consumers should not be punished as a result of provider negotiations.

Additionally, Congress should implement provisions that would promote and ensure flexibility for video programming distributors to provide video programming packages based on consumer demand.

Ultimately, CenturyLink supports a marketplace with the minimum legal construct necessary to ensure fair negotiations between content providers and video programming distributors and ensure that video distributors can compete equally, subject to the same obligations and protections, whether they are facilities-based or non-facilities-based providers. Such a market and legal construct should benefit consumers through better pricing and access to more content with enhanced options for viewing their desired content.

Questions:

¶¶ 201-202 (rel. Jan. 14, 2004) (“*News Corp. Order*”); see Steven Salop, et al., *Economic Analysis of Broadcasters’ Brinkmanship and Bargaining Advantages in Retransmission Consent Negotiations* ¶ 78 (June 3, 2010) (recounting a J.P. Morgan survey finding that “[m]ore than half of all surveyed subscribers indicated that they would switch MVPDs if anyone of the ‘Big 4’ broadcast networks . . . were unavailable to them”), available at http://97.74.209.146/downloads/broadcaster_brinkmanship.pdf.

- 1. Broadcasters face a host of regulations based on their status as a “public trustee.”**
 - a. Does the public trustee model still make sense in the current communications marketplace?**
 - b. Which specific obligations in law and regulation should be changed to address changes in the marketplace?**
 - c. How can the Communications Act foster broadcasting in the 21st century? What changes in law will promote a market in which broadcasting can compete with subscription video services?**
 - d. Are the local market rules still necessary to protect localism? What other mechanisms could promote both localism and competition? Alternatively, what changes could be made to the current local market rules to improve consumer outcomes?**

The principle of localism and preserving local news, sports and other local programming remains important, but it is questionable whether the public trustee model is effectively promoting that principle today. Most of today’s broadcasters were provided free spectrum in return for their providing free local programming to their viewers over that spectrum. When cable companies came along and could carry that programming farther than the local broadcast stations and with better quality at greater distances, Congress put provisions in place to protect broadcasters and ensure that their local programming continued to be provided within their local markets. Now, however, the rules that were put in place are not used primarily to ensure the provision of local programming, but to protect the local broadcaster’s exclusive rights to national programming.

Some of the local market rules are still necessary to protect and promote localism in video content and distribution. For example, broadcast ownership limits within local markets are still important to protect diversity of programming and promote competition. Additionally, provisions that support the objectives of localism in providing non-commercial public educational and government channels to subscribers in a local market should be maintained, but should be modified to recognize changed market conditions.

Most critically, Congress should examine the extent to which continuing to mandate carriage of local broadcast stations on video distribution systems remains necessary in today’s marketplace where that same content can be and increasingly frequently is available on-line and is still available over the airwaves. The ready availability of local broadcast content on-line and over the air arguably obviates the need for requiring specialized video distribution systems to carry that same content.

At a minimum, greater flexibility in how MVPDs can carry local signals is warranted. Flexibility in what constitutes a “local” signal (e.g. significantly viewed signals), and flexibility for distributors as to which local signals they can carry and how they may carry them should give consumers more local content options.

The existing non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity provisions also limit what is defined as “local” video content. Those provisions should be modified or wholly eliminated to permit distributors and consumers more choice in providing “local” content.

2. Cable services are governed largely by the 1992 Cable Act, a law passed when cable represented a near monopoly in subscription video.

a. How have market conditions changed the assumptions that form the foundation of the Cable Act? What changes to the Cable Act should be made in recognition of the market?

Originally, the retransmission consent statutory framework and the FCC’s implementing regulations were intended to protect broadcast stations from the marketplace advantage cable operators had in their monopolies over distribution of local video programming. More than twenty years later, however, that marketplace has changed significantly. As a direct result of increased competition in the marketplace for video programming distribution, what was designed as regulatory protection for the broadcast stations has become a hammer against MVPDs. Now the broadcast stations with the benefit of the protective retransmission consent legal framework, are exercising market power against MVPDs, and especially new entrant MVPDs, to the disadvantage of consumers of multichannel video programming.

For example, the good-faith negotiation obligations of broadcasters and MVPDs are intended to require the parties to a retransmission consent negotiation to engage in reasonable, fair and legitimate discussions to determine the terms for the MVPD’s retransmission of the broadcast signals. Unfortunately, in today’s marketplace where broadcasters have significant market power, which is further aided by a legislative framework that is tilted in their favor, the obligation to negotiate in good faith does not effectively counter the significant market and legislatively-supported leverage that broadcasters have to negotiate terms that allow them to ensure significant profits and ultimately result in higher prices for, and fewer choices regarding, video programming for consumers. The recent extension of the retransmission consent good-faith negotiation obligations was an important step in promoting fair and reasonable negotiations, but more should be done. Congress should modernize the legislative framework addressing distribution of broadcast signals by video programming distributors including the retransmission consent good-faith negotiation provisions. Congress should act to right the legislative framework that unnecessarily skews today’s video distribution negotiations between broadcasters and MVPDs to the excessive benefit of broadcasters and to the significant detriment of consumers.

It is well established that the cost to MVPDs of obtaining broadcast programming has been and continues to increase exponentially beyond any reasonable economic parameter associated with the production and distribution of such programming or comparative increases in the cost for acquiring non-broadcast programming, and consumers are feeling the impact through increased prices.

These high content costs have resulted in higher video service prices. For instance, according to the FCC report on Cable Industry Prices released on December 15, 2014, the average monthly price of expanded basic service for all communities surveyed increased by 3.1% over the 12 months ending January 1, 2014, to \$66.61, compared to an annual increase of 1.6% in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Further, the price of expanded basic service has increased at a compound average annual growth rate of 5.9% from 1995-2014 while the CPI compound annual growth rate over the same period was only 2.4%.³ These increases are simply not sustainable for MVPDs or consumers. At some point, this model will implode.

Further, video programming distributors have moved to imposing broadcast surcharges as a way to remain transparent with consumers as to where the inordinate increases in programming costs are occurring. Accordingly, consumers are seeing these higher content costs in the form of a line item surcharge on their customer bill.

Still further, the demands of high fees for content and other onerous terms for acquiring content have also lead to numerous blackouts of video programming with the obvious harm to consumers. Less obvious, however, are the ways in which the unchecked demands for permitting content distribution are particularly harmful to smaller, new entrant competitors and in turn competition in the video distribution industry and choice for consumers.

While the loss of a signal will severely harm a new entrant and its customers, it will pose little risk to the broadcaster given its ability to continue to make its programming available to other video programming distributors as well as to transmit it for free over the air and the Internet. However, the harm does not end there. Broadcasters often take further advantage of their leverage over new entrants by imposing even more onerous terms than those demanded of incumbent providers.

Larger and more established MVPDs have greater leverage against broadcasters because, with their large existing customer base, they can more credibly threaten service disruptions that would significantly affect the broadcasters' revenue. By contrast, as a new entrant seeking to grow by obtaining new customers, CenturyLink simply cannot afford blackouts. CenturyLink must provide uninterrupted access to local and network programming in order to be considered a viable alternative for potential customers. Consistent with these realities, according to the broadcasters themselves, approximately 89% of blackouts that occur due to retransmission consent impasses involve three of the top four largest MVPDs (Time Warner Cable, DIRECTV, and Dish Network).⁴

³ *In the Matter of Implementation of Section 3 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Statistical Report on Average Rates for Basic Service, Cable Programming Service, and Equipment*, Report on Cable Industry Prices, MM Docket No. 92-266, DA 14-1829, ¶ 3 (rel. Dec. 15, 2014).

⁴ National Association of Broadcasters, *Testimony of Gerry Waldron at Hearing on Satellite Television Law* (Sept. 10, 2013), available at <http://www.nab.org/documents/newsRoom/pressRelease.asp?id=3222>.

And, one of the key drivers of these lopsided negotiations is the current legislative framework for retransmission consent, particularly the non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity provisions. The exclusivity requirements – and the agreements between programming suppliers and broadcasters entered into under the shield of those rules – are largely responsible for the rising retransmission consent fees. Simply put, these rules and agreements give broadcasters a monopoly over the distribution of *national* (not uniquely local) network and syndicated programming. In the event of an impasse with a local broadcaster, CenturyLink cannot even negotiate with other broadcasters to retransmit their signals and thus the national programming that consumers demand. As a consequence, in CenturyLink’s experience, local broadcasters simply do not negotiate in any substantive way with CenturyLink on the price component of retransmission fees. Instead, they insist on yearly increases in retransmission fees that far outpace inflation and are without any other rational economic justification.

Although skyrocketing programming costs are an issue for all MVPDs, the exclusivity provisions disproportionately harm smaller MVPDs like CenturyLink. These requirements thus impede precisely the type of facilities-based video competition that Congress has long sought to encourage.⁵ Content costs are the largest variable cost of MVPD service, and they are largely a function of scale.⁶ Indeed, as a new entrant, CenturyLink likely pays retransmission consent fees that are over twice the amount of other MVPDs *for the same content*.⁷

⁵ *E.g.*, *In the Matter of Exclusive Service Contracts for Provision of Video Services in Multiple Dwelling Units and Other Real Estate Developments*, MB Docket No. 07-51, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 22 FCC Rcd 20235, ¶ 17 (rel. Nov. 13, 2007) (“Congress and the Commission have repeatedly found . . . that entry by LECs and other providers of wire-based video service into various segments of the multichannel video marketplace will produce major benefits for consumers,” including “lower prices, more channels, and a greater diversity of information and entertainment from more sources.”); *see also id.* at ¶¶ 40-55 (examining the Communications Act and concluding “a primary concern . . . was fostering competition among cable operators and enhancing consumer choice”).

⁶ *See In the Matter of Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming*, MB Docket No. 12-203, Fifteenth Report, 28 FCC Rcd 10496 ¶¶ 69-70 (rel. Jul. 22, 2013) (“15th MVPD Competition Report”).

⁷ William P. Rogerson, *The Economic Effects of Price Discrimination in Retransmission Consent Agreements* at 5-13 (May 18, 2010) (explaining that smaller MVPDs have less bargaining power than large MVPDs, and concluding that, based on available data, “it appears that the average retransmission consent fee paid by small and medium sized cable operators is more than twice as high as the average retransmission consent fee paid by large cable operators”), *attached as exhibit to the American Cable Association (ACA) May 18, 2010 Comments in the FCC’s proceeding In the Matter of Amendment of the Commission’s Rules Related to Retransmission Consent*, MB Docket No. 10-71.

Eliminating the exclusivity provisions and agreements that protect and perpetuate such exclusivity would reduce the enormous bargaining imbalance between MVPDs such as CenturyLink and broadcasters and at least stem the extraordinary pace of growth of retransmission consent fees. In the event of an impasse, CenturyLink would be able to negotiate with nearby (or even distant) broadcasters, thus inducing local broadcasters to engage in real give-and-take bargaining. Of course, CenturyLink would still have an incentive to negotiate retransmission agreements with local broadcasters in order to carry unique local programming, including local news and sports programming, desired by consumers. Further, all else being equal, it is likely to be less expensive for CenturyLink to retransmit the programming of local broadcasters given the typically higher compulsory copyright license royalties required for carriage of distant signals.⁸

The competitive and regulatory environment that originally justified the exclusivity provisions no longer exists; these rules give broadcasters an unwarranted regulatory advantage in retransmission negotiations; and the rules particularly harm new entrants and thus impede MVPD competition. For all of these reasons, Congress should eliminate or significantly modify the existing exclusivity provisions. The 1992 Cable Act must be revised to allow providers the ability to carry national programming from an alternate market during a broadcast retransmission consent negotiation breakdown.

MVPD competitors continue to battle the issue of skyrocketing programming costs due to the legislative framework that favors broadcasters. Consumers will not fully realize the benefits of a competitive market until a framework is in place that allows for fair negotiations with reasonable control on the costs to access programming. In addition to the direct adverse impact that outdated retransmission consent provisions have on the consumers who end up bearing the cost of the broadcasters' demands, they also threaten the consumer benefits of local facilities-based video provider choice such as innovative service, technologies and product offerings, differentiated programming, pricing options, and broader deployment of high speed broadband.

b. Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?

To be clear, program access provisions which ensure that MVPDs have access to video content from vertically-integrated programming providers remain important, particularly with the ongoing consolidation in the industry of vertically-integrated providers. Program carriage requirements, which provide video content providers with access to distribution platforms may be less necessary in today's marketplace. In CenturyLink's experience, leased access is used infrequently. Currently, across its video systems, CenturyLink has only a handful of leased access channels. With the proliferation of video content on-line, and the continued expansion of

⁸ See 17 U.S.C. § 111(d)(1)(B) (mandating royalty fees for retransmitting distant signals).

higher broadband speeds throughout the country, it may now be appropriate to eliminate leased access obligations.

3. Satellite television providers are currently regulated under law and regulation specific to their technology, despite the fact that they compete directly with cable. What changes can be made in the Communications Act (and other statutes) to reduce disparate treatment of competing technologies?

The law should not focus on regulating specific distribution technologies. Congress should examine the types of providers distributing video content and determine a more neutral approach to promoting competition across those distribution platforms.

4. The relationship between content and distributors consumes much of the debate on video services.

a. What changes to the existing rules that govern these relationships should be considered to reflect the modern market for content?

As discussed above in response to Question 2a, Congress should remove the current legislative framework that favors broadcasters in a market that no longer requires such favoritism. This includes eliminating or modifying the non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity provisions that now only serve to protect the exclusive rights to national programming by tightly defined “local” broadcast stations.

Congress should also implement provisions that ensure increased flexibility in the distribution of local programming including how video programming distributors can package video programming. If statutory and regulatory provisions do not already mandate it, broadcasters demand carriage on the basic programming tier. Similarly, most sports networks insist on carriage on the most widely distributed programming tier. This is typically the most expensive non-broadcast programming and results in higher rates for all customers, since customers cannot choose a package without this programming that could be available at a lower rate. As a result, MVPDs have little ability to be creative with video programming packaging in a manner that might appeal to customers at lower prices.

To promote consumer choice and better rates for video programming, Congress should require networks to provide distribution options that include not requiring that the network be in a basic MVPD tier of programming. Congress should prohibit programmers from requiring MVPDs to carry their programming on a basic tier. This would give MVPDs greater flexibility in designing programming tiers and packages that could give consumers greater choice in selecting programming they want at a range of prices.

Congress should also enact provisions that afford greater transparency in the prices, terms, and conditions of content agreements. This would foster fairer negotiations between content providers and video programming distributors as well as across competitive video programming distributors. Alternatively, Congress should permit more collective negotiation by smaller MVPDs with content providers.

b. How should the Communications Act balance consumer welfare with the rights of content creators?

This question is an important one that warrants significant consideration. It is important to sufficiently protect the value of content creation to encourage production of that content in the first instance while also promoting convenient access to and dissemination of that content so consumers can enjoy the benefits of that content. Any reform of the video content and distribution provisions of the Communications Act should also consider the necessary intersections with Copyright law and any modifications that might be warranted.

5. Over-the-top video services are not addressed in the current Communications Act. How should the Act treat these services? What are the consequences for competition and innovation if they are subjected to the legacy rules for MVPDs?

Neither over-the-top video services and their distributors nor existing MVPDs should be subject to legacy rules for MVPDs. Instead, there should be modified rules that treat all distributors of similar video programming equitably. As Congress works to modernize the Communications Act to restore a more balanced legislative framework that promotes competition and encourages diversity of programming in the video content and distribution market it should ensure that owning distribution facilities does not result in significant additional regulatory burdens for video programming distributors compared to those who distribute video programming without facility ownership.

[REDACTED]

From: Pete Pedulla [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 9:54 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Continued Support for Public Access

To:

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution – Response to White Paper #6

Dear Congressmen Upton and Walden,

I'm writing this brief letter to voice my support for the regulation that requires cable systems to provide local access to their distribution platforms. As Executive Director of a thriving PEG facility, I believe this support is essential to our continued survival.

Why do we matter? Because, at least in Chelmsford, MA, our PEG facility is an integral part of our community.

Our member-created content ensures that local voices are heard. Despite the ever-widening reach of the internet, significant portions of our community – most notably seniors – still rely on cable TV for vital information. And, our broadcasts are essential to their community involvement.

Separate from distribution method is the PEG Center itself. This is the place where community members can collaborate most effectively to express their local points of view. And, it is this localism – the expression of these unique voices – that truly is at stake here. I believe it's needed more than ever in the internet age.

Finally, I believe PEG centers play a critical role in transparency in government. We are the only organization able to broadcast fundamental government meetings – word-for-word and in real time. This ensures that the citizens of Chelmsford are aware of all Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee and other meetings. In short, it ensures that our citizenry has the tools it needs to be involved in their democracy.

For these reasons, I urge you to continue to allow PEG access to cable TV systems.

Sincerely,

-Pete

--

pete pedulla
executive director | CTM



check us out at chelmsfordtv.org



January 23, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce
237 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair, Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Communications and Technology
241 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Communications Act Review, White Paper #6 Question 2. B. Cable systems are required to provide access to the distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?

Dear Representatives Upton, Walden, Pallone, Jr. and Eshoo:

It's been my privilege to work with public officials who recognize the importance of giving voice to the local community. You, the leadership, and many members of this committee, including Illinois representatives Bobby Rush and Jan Schakowsky, have directly experienced the value of public, educational and government access (PEG Access) in your districts.

I'm Barbara Popovic, Executive Director of [CAN TV](#), Chicago's public access television facility. In 2008, I testified at a hearing on PEG Access held by the US House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. At that hearing, then Subcommittee Chairman Congressman Jose Serrano (NY-D) and Acting Ranking Member, Congressman Mark Kirk (IL-R) were in full (and vocal) agreement that localism is a priority, and that anything less than equitable treatment of PEG Access channels is inexcusable.

You ask whether PEG channel provisions are warranted in the digital age. Our answer is an unequivocal yes. CAN TV has 30 plus years of on-the-ground experience meeting local needs through PEG access services and channels. The Internet doesn't replace, but enhances the services uniquely offered by CAN TV.

At CAN TV, we are capitalizing on the opportunities of an evolving digital age. We train people to adapt to a changing multimedia environment, teach skills toward independent use of the media, help residents and groups get their programming on multiple media platforms, and build technological literacy in the community.

The availability of CAN TV's training, equipment and facilities results in channels programmed by the widest diversity of speakers you will find anywhere on television, including legal associations, educational institutions, health organizations, churches, entrepreneurs, artists, youth and seniors. CAN TV's online presence is growing with 85,000 views to our YouTube channel in 2014. Over 630 CAN TV videos on Archive.org have been downloaded 7,000 times just in the past four months, and CAN TV's live streaming of local events netted over 1,700 views in the past year.

Loyola University, in Rep. Schakowsky's district, has for 25 years offered live call-in programming on CAN TV focused on math instruction. The programs are simulcast on cable and online, then edited to 4-7 minute segments and uploaded to the Internet with hundreds of other instructional math segments made available to teachers and students. Diane Schiller, Loyola Professor says, "CAN TV helps *Math Matters* create an equitable electronic classroom that engages all students without exception and often functions as a parent tutorial as well."

In Rep. Rush's district, University of Chicago Department of Medicine uses CAN TV as part of its project entitled *Improving Diabetes Care and Outcomes on the South Side of Chicago*. Tonya Roberson, Project Manager says, "We know that education can help the South Side, whose African-American population is disproportionately at risk for diabetes. Yet it is sometimes difficult reaching this working class community. CAN TV helps to overcome this challenge by putting us in the homes of the very people that we are trying to reach. For the past four years, we have hosted a live, call-in show on CAN TV. Our health experts have dispelled myths and connected individuals to doctors for ongoing care. We have heard directly from South Side residents who have taken steps to improve their health."

The importance of CAN TV in offering a means of production is what attracted SCORE Chicago, a nonprofit that helps small businesses get started, grow and operate efficiently. SCORE Chicago representative, Mark Goodman, uploads programs completed at CAN TV to a number of other media platforms to reach SCORE's target audience. Says Goodman, "As video becomes pervasive on the Internet, having a resource like CAN TV is essential."

Since 1990, CAN TV has trained 17,000 Chicagoans, cablecast over 225,000 programs and covered thousands of local events.

In 2014, CAN TV:

- Cablecast close to 10,000 new local programs during the year.
- Provided residents with thousands of hours of production time.
- Simulcast local town hall meetings, election debates, and forums on cable and online.
- Simulcast over 70 hours a month of live call-in programming with local experts fielding questions on health, education, veterans issues, job training opportunities and more.

An active service at CAN TV is its 24 hour interactive bulletin board channel that gets calls 24/7 from residents that can access information on the channel from home or mobile phones.

In 2014, CAN TV42 received:

115,699 calls to jobs and training messages.

18,134 calls to upcoming events, including art and cultural events.

8,273 calls to volunteer opportunities.

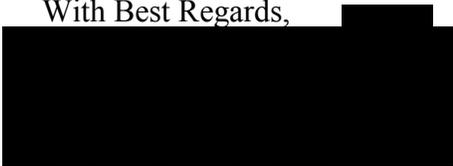
6,710 calls to messages about health.

This is the 21st Century, an age of great technological developments. Congress has a key role in ensuring that the infrastructure for supporting local speech is strengthened, not eroded as changes to the Communications Act are considered. Industry has taken steps to deprive PEG channels of basic technological advancements that have become the norm for other channels on their systems. We urge the Committee to take steps toward ensuring the continuation of PEG funding, and equitable carriage requirements (signal quality and functionality) for PEG channels that are equivalent to local broadcast channels.

PEG access facilities like CAN TV are instrumental in advancing the Communications Act goal that cable communications provide “the widest possible diversity of information sources and services to the public.” The attached enclosures further illustrate the breadth and diversity of programming on CAN TV. Equally as important is the role of PEG centers in meeting the goal in the Communications Act that cable systems continue to be “responsive to the needs and interests of the local community.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your attention to this matter.

With Best Regards,


Barbara Popovic
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Bobby Rush, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Senator Mark Kirk, Senator Dick Durbin

Enc: Government, educational, health, housing and community programming on CAN TV.



Community Programming on **can tv**

AFRICAN AMERICAN



The documentary "On the Frontline: Taking Back Our Streets" gives an on-the-ground view addressing gang violence in Chicago.



CAN TV covered Chicago Black Women Lawyers' Association's "How to Promote Leadership & Advocacy in the 21st Century."



"Celebrating Our History, Celebrating Ourselves" - Black History Month.

Programs

- Cookin' Wit' Tittle
- Engaging Fissures and Envision Global Futures
- Eslanda & Black Women's International Solidarity
- Global Girls: Report Back from the Tamil Nadu Region of India
- Harold Washington's Jobs, Economic, & Neighborhood Development Policies
- Leadership & Advocacy in the 21st Century
- Marching for King on King
- Muhammad and Friends
- NAACP Westside Branch Live
- New Directions in the Struggle for Social Justice in South Africa
- Poet Kwame Dawes
- Race & Chicago Politics: From Harold Washington to Today
- Reaching Back, Moving Forward on African American History in Chicago
- Tecora Rogers Show
- Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council
- Chicago Urban League
- Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- DuSable Museum of African American History
- Emages, Inc.
- Eta Creative Arts Foundation
- Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago
- Global Girls
- Greater Chatham Alliance
- Harold Washington Society
- Little Black Pearl Workshop
- Little Walter Foundation
- National Assoc. of Black Social Workers
- Nation of Islam
- National Black MBA Assoc. Chicago Chapter
- National Public Housing Museum
- Nubian Cultural Center
- Pullman Porter Museum, A. Phillip Randolph
- Rainbow PUSH Coalition
- Resident's Journal
- ROOTS International Art Alliance, Inc.
- South Side Community Arts Center
- The International Society of Sons/Daughters of Slavery
- United African Organization
- Westside NAACP

Institutions

- 100 Black Men of Chicago
- African American Family Association
- Aloy Children's Dance Theatre
- Black Nurses Association of Greater Chicago
- Black Star Community PTA
- Black Star Project
- Black Women Lawyers Association
- Bronzeville Oakland Neighborhood Association
- Chicago Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression
- Chicago Area Alliance of Black Educators



"With CAN TV's support, we are able to share our work and mission with diverse viewers across our city."

*Sylvia Puente, Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum*



Sones de Mexico Ensemble performs regional Mexican music on CAN TV's "Perspectivas Latinas."

Programs

- An Evening with Honduran LGBT Leader Pepe Palacios
- Association of Women Journalists 20th Annual Meeting with Maria Hinojosa
- Border Security, Economic Opportunity & Immigration Modernization Act
- The Butterfly Project: Dr. Luzma Umpierre Poetry Reading
- Human Rights at Home and in the World: On Immigration and Emigration
- Immigration Court Reform
- Immigration Reform in 2013: Challenges & Opportunities
- International Relations Issues Affecting Chicago Immigrants
- National Day of Action Against Deportations

Institutions

- Africaribe
- Alliance of Latinos and Jews
- Alliance for Immigrant Rights
- Aquinas Literacy Center
- Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
- The Borderbend Arts Collective
- Boricua Pride
- Brazilian Dance
- Calles y Sueños- Chicago
- Calor
- Casa Aztlan
- Casa Central
- Casa Michoacan
- Central States SER
- Centro Comunitario Juan Diego
- Centro de Salud Erie
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
- Centro Romero
- Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Latino Affairs
- Chicago Religious Network on Latin America
- ChildServ
- Chota Madre
- Colectivo El Pozo
- Comité 10 de Marzo
- Concordia Place
- Contratiempo
- El Centro Romero
- El Hogar del Niño
- El Valor
- Elevarte Community Studio
- Enlace Chicago
- HACE (Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement)
- HAS (Healthcare Alternative Systems)
- Healthy Latinos Schools Campaign
- Hispanocare
- Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
- Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation
- Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
- Instituto Cervantes
- International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago
- Las Caras Lindas
- Latino and Latin American Studies at UIC
- Latino Policy Forum
- Latinos Progresando
- Latin United Community Housing (LUCHA)
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association
- Mexico Solidarity Network
- Modern Hispanic Gentlemen
- Movimiento Diez de Marzo
- Mujeres Latinas En Accion
- Noticias Latinas
- National Latino Education Institute
- National Society of Hispanic MBAs
- Near Northwest Neighborhood Network
- One Million Degrees
- Onward Neighborhood House
- Orgullo En Accion
- Pilsen Neighbors Comm. Council
- Pilsen Wellness Center
- Poder Learning Center
- Position of Pressure
- Project Vida
- Proyecto Latina
- Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- Rafael Cintron Ortiz Latino Cultural Center at UIC
- Resurrection Project
- Salsation Theatre Company
- San Lucas Workers Center
- San Miguel Schools
- Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center
- Sones de Mexico Ensemble
- Teatro Luna
- The Gift House
- UIC Latino Cultural Center
- Universidad Popular

MORE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING ON CAN TV



CAN TV shared a celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month hosted by the Chicago Public Library.

"CAN TV truly provides a great community service by broadcasting important cultural events such as this to the entire community."

*Paula W. Saitis, North District Chief
Chicago Public Library*



CAN TV was there as The Goethe Institute's "Reconciling Lives: German-Jewish Dialogue" brought Jews and Germans together.

American Indian | American Indian Center • American Indian Health Services of Chicago • *Pow Wow*

Arab/ Middle Eastern | Arab American Action Network • Arab American Family Services • Coalition to Protect People's Rights • Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago • Council on American Islamic Relations • Hamdard Center for Health and Human Services • Inner-City Muslim Action Network • Leader Network • Muslim Peace Coalition • Muslim Women Resource Center • URUK Human Services

Asian | Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment • Asian American Institute • Asian American Indian Center • Asian Health Coalition • Asian Human Services • Asian Improv aRts Midwest • Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration • Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago • Asia Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago • Cambodian Association of Illinois • Chinese American Service League Society • Chinese Fine Arts • Chinese Mutual Aid Association • Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community • Emerging Thailand • Indo-American Center • Chicago Japanese American Historical Society • Korean American Community Services • Korean American Resource and Cultural Center • *New Dialogue of Korean American Artists* • *Pan Asian Mayoral Forum* • Silk Road Theater Project • Vietnamese Association of Illinois • *UMON Mongolian/American News* • "War Baby/ Love Child" Gallery Tour and Artist Talk

African | Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago • Illinois Association of Hair Braiders • *Movement for the Democratic Change-Mutambara Faction* • United African Organization • African World View

Brazilian | Brazilian Cultural Center

Caribbean | National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities • Caribbean Assoc. of Midwest America • *Mystic Vibes*

Cuban | *Salud: Cuba's Healthcare System*

German | DANK-HAUS German Cultural Center, Goethe-Institut

Greek | Goethe-Institut, Heritage Matters: Paths to the American Dream, The Legacy of Greek Immigration DANK-HAUS German Cultural Center

Haitian | *Haiti Jeunesse* • *Haiti Rencontre* • *Zaboka* • *Unity in Diversity* • *Maranatha Christ Revient* • *Le Cri de La Victoire*

Honduran | La Voz de los de Abajo

Italian | Italian Government Cultural Institute

Irish | Irish American Heritage Center

Israel | Volunteers for Israel

LGBTQ | Affinity Community Services • Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) • Center on Halsted • A Discussion on Contemporary LGBT movements • Effects of Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation on Hate Crimes in Chicago • The Legacy Project • Gay Liberation Network • Gay Rights Rally & March • Gender Advocates • Gerber/Hart Library and Archives • Illinois Safe Schools Alliance • Lambda Legal • LGBT Suicide Prevention Symposium • The Civil Rights Agenda

Polish | Casimir Pulaski Day Ceremony • Polish American Museum • Polish American Association

Serbian | *Serb View*



State Rep. Marcus Evans discusses laws that help victims of property fraud on *Housing Matters* with Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough.

“CAN TV provides the vehicle to reach a much larger audience and inform them how we can help them buy a home, rent an affordable apartment, or save the home they live in.”

Juan Carlos Linares
Latin United Community Housing Assoc.

Organizations

- AGORA Community Services
- Cook County Recorder of Deeds
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Family Credit Management
- Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac
- Federal Housing Finance Agency
- Haymarket Center
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
- Latin United Community Housing Association
- Lawyers Committee for Better Housing
- NAACP Westside Branch
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago
- Northwest Side Housing Center
- U.S. Department of Treasury
- U.S. Small Business Administration

Programs

- Affordable Housing Town Hall Meeting
- Chicago Bar Association’s “You and the Law”: Mortgages and Foreclosures
- Chicago Clout: Insurance Basics
- Clarice Mason Show: A General Contractor
- Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP)
- Homeland Improvements: Energy Saving, Plaster Tips
- Housing Justice Plan for Lathrop Homes
- Housing Matters with the Cook County Recorder of Deeds
- MacArthur Foundation: Housing Trust PSA
- Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

Issues

- Affordable housing
- Flood assistance
- Foreclosure prevention
- Housing discrimination
- Loan modification
- Mortgage bankers
- Mortgage Surplus Fund
- Radon testing



Health Programming on **can tv**



CAN TV provided live coverage of World Kidney Day events

Institutions

- AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
- ALS Association
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Heart Association
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital
- Annie's Legacy
- Arthritis Foundation of Illinois
- Beloved Community Family Wellness Center
- Body Parts Senior Fitness
- Brothers Health Collective
- Campaign for Better Health Care
- Cancer Legal Resource Center
- Center for Latino Mental Health
- Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program
- Chicago Blood Cancer Foundation
- Chicago Chapter of Black Nurses
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago House
- Chicago Lighthouse
- Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Chicago Women's AIDS Project
- Commit to Get Fit
- Connections for Abused Women & Their Children
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- El Rincon Community Clinic
- Emages, Inc.
- Family Resource Center on Disabilities
- Fantus Health Center
- Firman Community Services
- Gift of Hope Organ Donor & Tissue Network
- Haymarket Center
- Health and Disability Advocates
- Hispanocare
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Illinois Black Nurses Association
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Podiatric Medical Assoc.
- Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
- Lifespan
- Little City Foundation
- March of Dimes
- Mental Health Movement
- Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force
- Mujeres Latinas en Accion
- National Kidney Foundation of Illinois
- National Runaway Safeline
- National Sarcoidosis Society
- Near North Health Service Corporation
- Pilsen Wellness Center
- Rape Victims Advocates
- Recovery 2000
- Roseland Community Hospital
- Rush University College of Nursing
- Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
- SGA Youth and Family Services
- Salvation Army
- Sankofa Safe Child Initiative
- South Side Help Center
- The Gift House
- The Red Pump Project
- UIC Urban Health
- UIC School of Public Health
- Universal Family Connection, Inc.
- University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics
- University of Chicago Medical Center
- University of Chicago's Improving Diabetes
- Vet Net
- YWCA Women Services

HEALTH TOPICS



CAN TV42's interactive bulletin board service received more than 6,700 calls in 2014 for health-related information, including mammograms, prenatal care and free HIV testing, as well as referrals to cancer-related support groups and affordable healthcare clinics.

- Acupressure and Acupuncture
- Addiction Studies
- Addictions in the Family
- Adult Violence in Youth Sports
- Affordable Health Care Plan
- Autism
- Barriers to Healthcare for the Mentally Ill
- Be a Vegetarian
- Be an Organ Donor
- Bed Bugs
- Better Health Through Oral Hygiene
- Cancer
- Child Support
- Conceal & Carry Law
- Cyber Bulling and Sexting
- Daily Drug Use
- Dangerous Foods/ Health Risks
- Defending Healthcare and Human Services
- Dementia
- Domestic Violence
- Diabetes
- Disability and Siblings
- Drs. First, Do No Harm
- Environmental Concerns Over Illinois' Coal Industry
- Exercise for Seniors
- Eye Health, Eye Help
- Flu Vaccinations
- Foods That Kill
- Genetically Engineered Food: What You Need to Know
- Green Living
- Health care vs. Disease Management
- Health Prevention
- Health Risks of GMO Foods
- Health Wellness/ Relaxing Exercises
- Healthy Habits
- Heart Disease
- Heart Disease- Are You at Risk?
- High Blood Pressure
- HIV/AIDS/ STI's
- Inflammation
- Inflammatory Digestive Conditions
- Is Wheat Really Healthy for Us?
- Joint Pain and Arthritis
- Kidney Dialysis
- Kidney Donor's Story
- Life After Addiction
- Medicaid and Home Services
- Medical Marijuana
- Mental Illness and Stigma
- Nursing Homes
- Nutritional Health
- Oral Hygiene
- Organ Donation
- Oriental Medicine/ Acupuncture
- Practice Prevention
- Prevent Prostrate, Lung and Breast Cancer
- Promoting a Safe and Drug Free Community
- Psychology in Child Custody Evaluations
- Public's Lack of Knowledge about the Flu
- Radiation of Japan's Nuclear Accident
- Risk of GMO's
- Safe Sex
- Safety and Awareness on Motorcycles
- Seven pains We Should Not Ignore
- Sex Education for High Schoolers
- Sleep Apnea/ Respiratory Conditions
- Speech Language Pathology
- Superfoods- A Nutrition Examination
- SV40 Virus & Cancer
- System Cleansing
- Weight Loss
- Women with Cancer Tell of Their Experiences

HEALTH TOPICS



On CAN TV's "Perspectivas Latinas," organizations like Rape Victim Advocates reach viewers in both English and Spanish

"It is ever more important to have reliable sources of fact and guidance on issues of public importance. Enter CAN TV and your creative ways of getting the actual truth and guidance out to the Chicagoland viewing audience."

Jessica Palys
Campaign for Better Healthcare

"Because mental health is so stigmatized in our society, it is essential to get coverage about the real faces and stories of mental illness out as far and as wide as possible. CAN TV is doing an essential public service by helping to make this possible"

Matt Ginsberg-Jaeckle
Mental Health Movement/ STOP

"CAN TV lets us reach those who are most debilitated by domestic violence: those who have limited access to information about services, people who speak little or no English, and those who are recent immigrants."

Courtney Frederick
Lifespan

"AIDS Call-in Live is important because it increases accessibility and approachability of HIV/AIDS education... Viewers can obtain factual information about HIV/AIDS and ask questions anonymously in the comfort of their own spaces without having to worry about HIV stigma, even more so now that individuals can view the show on the Internet if they don't have cable TV."

Liz Thompson
Chicago House

"We are able to speak to the public in a different way than we typically would using CAN TV. Ultimately it helps give survivors of rape a voice as we share their stories and break down damaging misconceptions around this issue."

Megan E. Bloomquist
Rape Victim Advocates

"The ability to access the diverse communities of Chicago is a great asset; for those individuals who actually become nurses, it is an even better outcome for the health of the city."

Lisa Rosenberg, PhD, RN
Rush University College of Nursing

"The CAN TV programming has allowed us to extend our outreach and educational service; particularly, to communities of color, a population most impacted by infectious disease, drug abuse, and high-risk behaviors."

Rosanna I. Jackson
The Gift House



"Hispanocare" is a live, call-in show that offers health advice to viewers in both English and Spanish.

"We don't have a large budget to spend on advertising, but we want to communicate our life-saving health messages to as many people as possible. Thanks to CAN TV, we're able to make that happen."

Julia Starzyk
American Heart Association

"We've increased our HIV/AIDS testing numbers by 40%. We have increased our condom distribution by 30%. We are now allowed more access in high crime communities to provide [our] services as a result of our visibility on your channel."

Kendall D. Moore
South Side Help Center

"Since being a part of CAN TV, our calls to the office have gone up 20%. With this number of people calling it has raised awareness of domestic violence and what services there are for people who are survivors."

Beverly Billy
Annie's Legacy

"CAN TV allows the community to connect with organizations and health care providers in a very direct and meaningful way... CAN TV's impact reaches far beyond the million viewers in Chicago with access to CAN TV programming. On demand viewership through our website and a variety of other distribution sources provides the information to people across the globe and greatly extends the shelf life of the information, making it available to viewers months and years later."

Scott. M. Seaman
Chicago Blood Cancer Foundation

"CAN TV's streaming service made it possible to outreach to our stakeholders outside the Chicago area. The live call in format is a wonderful resource to our organization because it gives parents an opportunity to receive immediate responses to their questions. Through CAN TV, FRCD was able to connect our families to other disability organizations, such as Access Living and Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities."

Michelle Phillips
Family Resource Center on Disabilities

"Being nurses and educators, we are not experts in how to best represent our programs to the public, particularly using the television medium. CAN TV made that transition easy."

Claire Denton-Spalding
Mujeres Latinas en Accion

"Public access channels are critical to the health and well-being of cities and their public."

Sharon Tatom Garcia
Arthritis Foundation of Illinois

Local programs on CAN TV:



Jesse Ruiz, VP of the Chicago Board of Education, appears on CAN TV's Community Forum to discuss back-to-school preparations.



CPS principal Elizabeth Dozier participates in the Juvenile Justice Symposium hosted by the Illinois Judicial Council and covered by CAN TV.

- Albany Park Neighborhood Council
- Alliance of IL Safe Schools
- Forum on School Closings (Bridgeport Alliance, Raise your hand and CTU)
- CPS: Be Active, Eat Right, Learn Better! (Live)
- CPS Board of Education meetings
- CPS Vocational Training
- Chicago Newsroom: CPS Budget, CPS Safe passage program, CPS 80 Closings, CPS closing and Charter schools, Parent Groups and CTU on closings, Effects of poverty on academic achievement
- Education Town Hall Meeting Series (Blocks Together)
- Human Rights Lesson from the CTU (University of Chicago Human Rights Project)
- ILACHE-Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education
- Is It Time To ICE the ISAT? (More Than a Score Chicago)
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association: Parent/Mentor Rally
- Numbers That Count: On Track Indicator (Catalyst Chicago & Business and Professional People for the Public Interest)
- Parents for Charter Schools Press Conference (Illinois Network of Charter Schools)
- Peoples Board Meeting (Teachers for Social Justice)
- Raise Your Hand Coalition Press Conference
- Rally and march to stop school closing (Live)
- The School to Prison Pipeline (American Bar Association)
- TIF's in an Era of School Budget Cuts (Better Government Association)
- UNO: Politics and Corruption (Rogers Park Neighbors for Public Schools)
- Young leaders café



Students from the Westside Writing Project report on community issues.

"Our CAN TV experience was such a success that we have incorporated broadcast news into our core programming."

Frank Latin, Executive Director
Westside Writing Project

Elementary Schools

- Ames Middle School Referendum
- Beacon Therapeutic Day School
- Centers for New Horizons
- Hedges Fine & Performing Arts Magnet Cluster School
- James N. Thorp Elementary School
- Kwame Nkrumah Academy
- Little City Foundation
- Our Lady of Grace School
- Roseland Learning Center
- St. Jane de Chantal School
- Teach 21 day care

High Schools

- Alternative Schools Network
- De La Salle Institute
- DePaul College of Education
- Frederick Douglas Academy H.S.
- Hales Franciscan
- Noble Charter Schools
- Prologue, Inc.
- Providence - St. Mel High School
- Team Englewood H.S.

COLLEGE & ADULT EDUCATION



Loyola University students engage Chicago students with live, interactive math programs on Math Matters.

"CAN TV helps Math Matters create an equitable electronic classroom that engages all students, without exception, and often functions as a parental tutorial as well."

Diane Schiller
Loyola University Chicago

- Art Institute of Chicago
- Chicago State University
- Tougaloo College- Chicago Alumni Association
- Columbia College
- DePaul College of Education
- DePaul University
- Gads Hill Center
- HOPE Technology and Educational Center
- I.C. Stars
- Illinois Career Path Institute
- Illinois Humanities Council
- Illinois Network of Charter Schools.org
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- MacCormac College
- Medill School of Journalism
- National Louis University
- Northern Illinois University

- Northwestern University
- NWU
- Roosevelt University- GEAR UP
- Rush University College of Nursing
- Spertus Institute
- Universidad Popular
- Year Up, Inc.

University of Chicago

- Booth School of Business
- Institute of Government and Public Affairs
- Institute of Politics

UIC

- Law School
- School of Public Health
- Urban Health Program

ENRICHMENT



Free Spirit Media teaches teens the fundamentals of media production.

“These students are using their own unique voices to tell stories that the media often filters out.”

Jeff McCarter, Founder,
Free Spirit Media



Emmy-nominated Elephant & Worm TV brings stories from kids' imaginations to life.

“We are so proud to participate in this experience with CAN TV and feel that it is the perfect venue for this community-based work that we so enjoy doing.”

Joseph Lewis, Arts Educator
Elephant & Worm, ETC.

Aquinas Literacy Center
Beacon Therapeutic
DuSable Museum
Elephant & Worm, ETC.
ElevArte Community Studio
Etiquette Foundation of Illinois
Family Resource Center on Disabilities
Firman Community Services
Free Spirit Media
G.O.A.L. - Grupo Oficial de Árbitros Latinos
Global Girls, Inc.
Guild Literacy Complex
Heartland Institute
Ingenuity
Jackson Action Coalition
Kimbrough Academy Kingdom Dance
Kordero Hunter M.V.P. Foundation
Life Through Lenses
Little City Foundation
Maryville Academy
Merit School of Music
Midtown-Metro (Midtown Educational Foundation)
Museum of Science & Industry
Najwa Dance Corps
National Latino Education Institute
Nubian Cultural Center
Phalanx Family Services
Poder Learning Center
South Side Help Center
Special Olympics Chicago
Spirit of Beauty: Etiquette & Social Dev.
The Illinois Association of School Administrators
The Westside Writing Project
Top of the Key Sports Program
Urban Gateways
W.E.C.A.N.
West Garfield Park Youth Council
Year Up, Inc.



Young scientists from the Museum of Science and Industry engage students with fun science experiments on their weekly live call-in show on CAN TV21.

"CAN TV has opened new roads for MSI to reach various communities throughout Illinois; both organizations working together can make a difference in Chicago."

Marvin M. McClure
Museum of Science and Industry



Athletes from Special Olympics Chicago hosted CAN TV's live coverage of the Special Olympics opening ceremonies.

"So great of CAN TV to help build a community of acceptance and inclusion for all people. It is noticed and appreciated."

Susan Nicholl
Special Children's Charities

"In a cultural environment so rich with opportunities at every moment, CAN TV provides a critical link for Chicagoans."

Kipa L. Davis
Columbia College

"The exposure CAN TV provides is invaluable in our outreach efforts."

Daniel P. Loftus, Executive Director
PODER English Works

"The resources, trainings, and channel time that CAN TV offers for free is invaluable. The unique communications resource belongs to the people of Chicago, whether you are a viewer, a producer, or simply believe in the right of free expression. CAN TV has become a lifeline for thousands of Chicago residents and nonprofits."

Michelle Morales
Alternative Schools Network

"[CAN TV has] helped Catalyst extend its reach, particularly to a hard-to-reach audience, and thus helped level the information playing field."

Linda Lenz
Catalyst Chicago

"[CAN TV's] services help us in our own efforts to educate and spark debate about Chicago's cultural ecosystem."

Will Anderson, Assistant Director
Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago

"[CAN TV's] setup, coordination, and supervision guided our students through operating easy-to-use technology. With that strong support, they were able to focus primarily on the content."

Walter J. Podrazik,
University of Illinois at Chicago

"CAN TV and their accessibility allows individuals and institutions that operate in the margins of society to get their voices, their stories, and their issues into the public eye."

Michelle Morales, Associate Director
Alternative Schools Network

"CAN TV allows us to contribute to dialogues that are not sufficiently covered by mainstream television networks."

Joanna Hazelden, Branch Manager
Edgewater Branch Library



CAN TV provided coverage of a town hall meeting on gun violence featuring Mayor Rahm Emanuel and others.

Local programs on CAN TV:

- Chicago Aldermen Walter Burnett (27) and Willie Cochran (20) present regular programs on ward activities.
- CAN TV's weekly *Political Forum* features elected officials taking phone calls live from viewers about ward and district activities.
- *Caucus Talks* is a monthly live call in show featuring members of the Chicago Aldermanic Black Caucus discussing relevant issues for the communities they serve.
- For the March 18, 2014 Primary Election, 137 programs introduced 96 candidates as they campaigned for 21 elected positions.
- In 2013, 150 programs introduced viewers to 116 candidates for the March primary and 2nd Congressional District's special election.

City Officials and Agencies on CAN TV (2013 to present):

MAYOR Rahm Emanuel, **CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT** Garry McCarthy

ALDERMEN | Proco Joe Moreno (1), Robert Fioretti (2), Pat Dowell (3), Will Burns (4), Leslie Hairston (5), Roderick T. Sawyer (6), Natasha Holmes (7), Michelle Harris (8), Anthony Beale (9), John Pope (10), George Cardenas (12), Toni Foulkes (15), Willie Cochran (20), Howard Brookins, Jr. (21), Ricardo Muñoz (22), Roberto Maldonado (26) Walter Burnett, Jr. (27), Jason Ervin (28), Deborah Graham (29), Ariel E. Reboyras (30), Ray Suarez (31), Scott Waguespack (32), Deb Mell (33), Carrie Austin (34), Rey Colon (35), Nicholas Sposato (36), Emma Mitts (37), John Arena (45), Ameya Pawar (47), Harry Osterman (48), Joe Moore (49)

CITY AGENCIES | Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Family Support Services



Chicago Westside Branch NAACP hosted a debate between Cook County Board candidates covered live by CAN TV.

County programs on CAN TV:

- Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown gives viewers the opportunity to call into her agency's live show to get information about record expungement, child support and the other services available through her office.
- Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough hosts a regular live, call-in show called "Housing Matters" and answers a variety of viewer calls related to housing issues.
- Cook County Circuit Court judges weighed in during the Illinois Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Symposium.
- Members of the Cook County Bar Association provide free legal advice to viewers during their live call-in show.

County Officials and Agencies on CAN TV:

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES | Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle • State's Attorney Anita Alvarez • Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown • Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough • County Sheriff Tom Dart • County Clerk David Orr • Commissioner Jesus Garcia (7) • Commissioner Bridget Gainer (10) • Commissioner Larry Suffredin (13) • Board of Review Dan Patlak

METROPOLITAN RECLAMATION DISTRICT | Commissioner Frank Avila

COUNTY AGENCIES | Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Cook County Health & Hospital Systems, Cook County Jail, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, Cook County Sherriff's Office, Cook County State's Attorney Office, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

JUDGES | Andrea Buford • Cynthia Cobbs • Jerry Esrig • Timothy C. Evans • Sophia H. Hall • Carol M. Howard • Marianne Jackson • Marilyn F. Johnson • Freddrenna Lyle • Susan Kennedy Sullivan • Sharon O. Johnson • Michael Otto • Marguerite Anne Quinn • William Raines • Kristal Rivers • Sybil C. Thomas • Peter Vilkelis



IL Sen. William Delgado (2nd) speaks at the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation's annual conference.

State programs on CAN TV:

- CAN TV provided live coverage on TV and online of the House Judiciary Committee hearing on concealed carry, pension reform events, and immigration reform protests.
- Public hearing on gambling expansion amendments to Senate Bill 1739.
- Official signing of Senate Bill 10, the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, into law.
- The Illinois Channel covers legislative hearings, Illinois Supreme Court hearings, and public policy events from across the state.

"[CAN TV] empowers residents to use media responsibly while exercising the power of free speech."

IL Rep. Arthur Turner

State Officials and Agencies on CAN TV:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS | Secretary of State Jesse White • Attorney General Lisa Madigan • Senate President John Cullerton (6) • Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno (41) • House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (82)

STATE SENATORS | William Delgado (2), Mattie Hunter (3), Kimberly A. Lightford (4), Patricia Van Pelt (5), John Cullerton (6), John G. Mulroe (10), Jacqueline Y. Collins (16), Donne Trotter (17), Iris Martinez (20), Michael Noland (22), Jim Oberweis (25), Matt Murphy (27), Pamela Althoff (32), Toi Hutchinson (40), Christine Radogno (41), Bill Brady (44)

STATE REPRESENTATIVES | Daniel Burke (1), Cynthia Soto (4), Kenneth Dunkin (5), Esther Golar (6), Emanuel Chris Welch (7), La Shawn K. Ford (8), Arthur Turner (9), Ann Williams (11), Kelly Cassidy (14), John D'Amico (15), Robert F. Martwick, Jr (19), Michael McAuliffe (20), Silvana Tabares (21), Michael J. Zalewski (23), Barbara Flynn Currie (25), Christian Mitchell (26), Monique D. Davis (27), Mary E. Flowers (31), Andre Thapedi (32), Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (33), Elgie Sims, Jr. (34), Jeanne Ives (42), Fred Crespo (44), Patricia Bellock (47), Ed Sullivan Jr. (51), David Harris (53), Elaine Nekritz (57), Scott Drury (58), Rita Mayfield (60), Jack Franks (63), John Cabello (68), Ron Sandack (81), Jim Durkin (82), Rich Brauer (87), Jehan Gordon-Booth (92), Adam Brown (102), Dwight Kay (112), Jay Hoffman (113), John E. Bradley (117), Brandon Phelps (118)

STATE AGENCIES | Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Healthcare & Family Services, Department of Human Services, Illinois African-American Family Commission, Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Illinois Tollway

JUDICIAL BRANCH | Appellate Judges: James Epstein • Jesse G. Reyes

Federal programs on CAN TV:



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin provides updates to his constituents on his program "A Different View."

- In 2013, CAN TV provided live coverage on TV and online of all the candidate debates for the 2nd Congressional District special election.
- After 19 years, the U.S. Social Security Administration continues to educate the public- in English and Spanish- on changes to services like Medicare and retirement benefits.
- Congressman Danny K. Davis (7) gives Chicago residents the opportunity to call into his weekly live program *Listening to the People* to discuss community and civic issues, as he has for more than 15 years.
- Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and National Veterans Art Museum do live, call-in programming as part of "Veteran's Issues," providing peer support and information to help veterans heal from the psychological toll of war.

Federal Officials and Agencies on CAN TV:

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES | Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mel Watt • Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack • Senator Dick Durbin • Rep. Robin Kelly (2) • Rep. Peter Roskam (6) • Rep. Danny K. Davis (7) • Rep. Jan Schakowsky (9) • Rep. John Conyers (MI-13)

FEDERAL AGENCIES | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Treasury , Federal Housing Finance Agency, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Small Business Administration, Social Security Administration



Citizens Television, Inc.

843 State Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-562-2288

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution

Dear Honorable Sirs:

Before the Communications and Technology Sub-committee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has come the question of whether cable companies should be required to continue the provision of PEG channels to local communities since there is now the internet.

The validity of that question must be measured against a basic marketplace reality of commercial television stations (Legacy TV): they have not abandoned their cable channels in favor of transitioning their viewers to the internet. Why not? Because study after study has shown that the internet is not a viable substitution for viewing programming created for television. To be clear, those using the internet for other purposes show a marked decline in the number of hours for television viewing, but they are not watching television programming during their internet use and they still watch television for their favored programs

The internet has created a niche for the viewing of movies and second-run television series programs. Most Legacy TV cable companies provide that programming as well. But even the premiere and dominant internet providers offering this viewing service (Netflix, Apple TV, Amazon Fire/Prime) each have only twenty to twenty-seven percent (20%-27%) of the 100 million subscribers to cable television subscribers. Further, none of these services have first-run television series or sports programming. And despite the occasional but persistent rumors to the contrary, television is still by far the primary entertainment and information viewing source in American family households. A Nielsen survey of March, 2014 showed the following television viewing time by age groups.

2-11: 24 hours, 16 minutes.

12-17: 20 hours, 41 minutes.

18-24: 22 hours, 27 minutes.

25-34: 27 hours, 36 minutes.

35-49: 33 hours, 40 minutes.

50-64: 43 hours, 56 minutes.

65-plus: 50 hours, 34 minutes.

What does this mean for PEG channels provided by cable companies? It means that its largest viewing audience is four to five times over what it could possibly be via the internet. As well, PEG channels content is mandated to prioritize local origination programming. How likely is it that someone in Peoria, Illinois is interested in viewing live via the internet a Board of Alders meeting from New Haven, CT? Forcing PEG channels to the internet would also force them to require paid subscription access to its content. To broaden its appeal for those revenues, PEG channels would have to concentrate less on local origination program (and local residents) in order to maximize its appeal to a national rather than local audience. The entire concept of community access would be lost.

It is possible that somewhere in our technological future, Legacy TV provided by cable companies will be a lesser viable option for the deliverance of PEG channels to the local communities they serve. Currently, that option is not reasonably visible either upon or from the technological and social viewing horizons. We ask that your committee recommend that PEG channels continue to be mandatorily provided to local communities by cable companies.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph L. Schofield
Executive Director

Cc:

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Honorable Christopher Murphy

[REDACTED]

From: McDonald, Gregory [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 5:12 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Subject: Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Provisions requiring PEG channels are as necessary today as they were over 40 years ago. The advent of new technology and means of communication does not negate the usefulness of an existing technology. The arrival of television did not eliminate radio, cable did not eliminate broadcast, and the internet has not eliminated all of the others, despite its ability to provide much of the same service. Our communities are made up of generations of people, families, some who progress and adopt new inventions and technologies, others who sustain and make use of existing technologies and services that have satisfied their needs.

Cable television still provides a greater ability for an individual to communicate with their local community, and access channels have been the means by which the local community can share their voice. Whether it's the person speaking during public comment time during the live broadcast of a city board meeting; a choir singing during a religious service; fans cheering during a high school sporting event; or a local non-profit organization discussing a need for volunteers. Here in Ann Arbor, Michigan, our community has made great use of our local PEG access channels, each year over 15,000 hours of programming, produced or provided by our community, for our community.

The internet is much like a department store, you don't see much of what it has to offer until you go in and explore. Cable television is more like store fronts along a street, you can see what's in each store as you pass by and can stop for those you see something of interest, especially with a local business. And despite the availability of the internet, not everyone has the means or ability to make use of it. This begs the questions as to why there could not be a funding mechanism, similar to access channels, where internet providers provide local communities some funds to help those with little means to gain access to the power of the internet.

Greg McDonald | CTN Manager | [REDACTED]
City of Ann Arbor - CTN | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



City of Austin

Steve Adler, Mayor

301 W. 2nd St., Austin, TX 78701
(512) 978-2100, Fax (512) 978-2120
steve.adler@austintexas.gov

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(Sent via Email to: commactupdate@mail.house.gov)

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution – Response to White Paper #6

Dear Congressman Upton,

I am writing to let you know in the strongest terms that the federal, state, and local franchising provisions that require our cable/video service providers to carry and support local Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) channel access are as necessary and warranted today as they have ever been.

In Austin, the Austin Community College and Austin Independent School District channels provide important sources of educational opportunities and program information for students and parents alike, while the City of Austin and Travis County governmental channels keep our citizens informed of all major local government meetings and a wide range of other public interest issues. The City's public access channels provide a unique forum for our faith based organizations, non-profits, and individuals to voice their messages, demonstrate their creative talents, and exercise their freedom of expression.

The fact that there are other Internet-based ways to share video programming in no way diminishes the important role that PEG programming via cable television continues to play for the sector of the public that cannot afford broadband equipment and connectivity. If cable distribution is no longer critical to PEG channels, why, then are broadcasters and commercial cable programmers not abandoning their cable channel slots in favor of Internet-only delivery? The real answer, of course, is that Internet delivery is merely a complement to, rather than a substitute for, cable channel delivery, especially when it comes to PEG channels. In Austin, one of the most Internet-savvy cities in the country, we estimate that there is almost 10 percent or 80,000 of our adult population without Internet access to view Internet-based programming.

In the "Blueprint for Localism in Communications" the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (NATOA) correctly said:

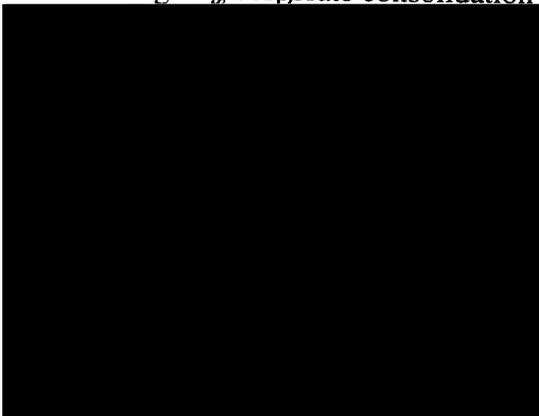
The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

“The convergence of communications technologies led by Internet Protocol and exponential growth of computing power is fundamentally transforming the communications industry. This transformation is taking place at a time of increasing industry consolidation and the concentration of political and economic power in the hands of a few incumbent providers. That in turn has led to deregulatory measures, laws and regulations that have the potential to be harmful to the interests of the public and local communities. At stake is local government’s ability to ensure provision of important public benefits such as local consumer protection, support for multiple voices in media through Public, Education and Government (“PEG”) programming, and regulation and compensation for the private use of public property, to name just a few. “

Austin is home to the country’s longest continuously running public access channel 10 who just celebrated its 40th Anniversary thanks in large part to the support of our community and the companies who provide cable television services to Austin.

There is a real need to increase, rather than decrease such support going forward. PEG centers provide constructive outlets for community youth to learn media skills and seniors to actively create programming on a range of issues in their local community. PEG channels promote civic participation, educational opportunities and technology access.

We appreciate your careful consideration of these grass roots, community-based communication tools and hope that you will work to defend them in the face of ongoing corporate consolidation of the cable and broadband industries.





January 29, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

VIA Email: commactupdate@mail.house.gov

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution- Response to White Paper #6

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

As you and the Energy and Commerce Committee begin to review the regulations of the market for video content and distribution, I wanted to highlight the importance of public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels for Denton, Texas and cities across the nation.

Even in the era of the Internet, there are more than 1,500 PEG access centers in the United States. They manage upwards of 5,000 cable television PEG channels that each week carry 20,000 hours of original programming from local governments, schools, health and jobs organizations, social services agencies, religious groups, and local residents. PEG channels and production centers have become the primary vehicle for preserving localism by providing vital local government information, educational content, civic and cultural information and religious and political expression to residents in local communities across America.

Denton Community Access Television (DCTV), through a cable television channel, provides citizens cablecast recorded programming which they can also produce. DCTV is a partnership between the City of Denton and the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. DCTV is a place where diverse voices can be heard, information can be shared and a place for open discussion among citizens. The channel's programming includes talk shows, religious programming, political and government coverage, plus bulletin board information about municipal issues and community events. Many of our residents have limited access to the Internet and utilize DCTV as their primary media outlet for community information.

The majority of funding to produce DCTV comes from PEG funds. The right of franchising authorities to require cable operators to set aside channel capacity for PEG use and to provide adequate facilities or financial support for those channels is instrumental to preserving PEG channels and their operations. This ensures that these channels continue to be available to the entire community and preserve jobs at the local level. Any change in regulations would be harmful to local broadcasting opportunities and the ability of local governments to provide this critical public service.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and the committee's commitment to PEG channels via cable systems and their important public benefits.



Chris Watts
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Michael C. Burgess (Fax: 202-225-2919)

[REDACTED]

From: Audrey Barnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 3:41 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Regulation of the Market For Video Content and Distribution--Response to White Paper #6

The Honorable Fred Upton and The Honorable Greg Walden:

My name is Audrey Barnes and I am the Communications Director for the City of Laurel, Maryland.

I am writing to tell you what a valuable asset our PEG programming is for our 25,000 residents. In some cases it is truly a lifeline.

While the median age in Laurel is 34 years old, about 6 percent of our population is over the age of 65. There are many in that age group who use the internet to get their news and entertainment, but there are even more who don't. For them, Laurel TV, our public access television station, is how they stay connected, educated, and engaged in the community. And even more important, it's how they get critical safety and emergency information.

Laurel is prone to flooding. Last May, WSSC, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, opened a few gates to relieve the pressure on its dam, and millions of gallons of that water ended up in the basements of Laurel homes and businesses. More than 100 people were evacuated.

Our elderly residents didn't wait for tweets about the situation. They switched on their televisions to see if there was an emergency alert on Laurel TV. Some got the news from firemen and police officers knocking on their doors who transported them to shelter at the Community Center.

Losing access to our cable system would be detrimental to Laurel, not only for emergencies, but for the renewed sense of community it provides. A launch party last year to re-invigorate our PEG channel drew more than 300 people, many of whom now volunteer with Laurel TV. We're now filling the

airwaves with stories on community events, innovative government programs and projects, school, and community news.

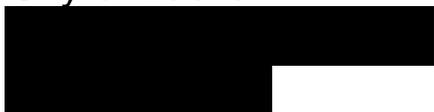
Our PEG station, also offers training and opportunities to shoot videotape, report, write, and edit stories for our station. Those volunteers, of all ages, are now telling the stories of their local businesses, the schools, and their neighbors. Many volunteers said the television station was just the thing Laurel needed to get people to interested and enthused about living in this charming city on the move.

Although Laurel is situated between Washington, DC and Baltimore, the stories that are now being told on Laurel TV would never make air in those larger television markets. Now residents here can tell the stories themselves because their PEG channel is right in their Municipal Center is the middle of town.

A recent promotional campaign for Laurel TV said it all. We visited all the iconic spots in Laurel-- Main Street, the historical museum, the lakes and had Laurel residents proclaim, "This is my Laurel." Each promo ended with the line, "For all things Laurel, tune into Laurel TV, and turn your power on."

Our PEG channel in Laurel is empowering people, educating them, and entertaining them. To lose access to it now when we've just revived it and are now filling our schedule 24/7 with valuable content, would deal Laurel and blow it would be hard to recover from.

Sincerely,
Audrey Barnes
Director of Communications
City of Laurel





CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

P. O. BOX 839966
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS 78283-3966

Office of the City Attorney
3rd Floor, City Hall
100 So. Flores St.

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Sent via Email to: commactupdate@mail.house.gov

Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution – Response to White Paper #6

Dear Representatives Walden and Upton:

The House Energy and Communications Committee has invited responses to the question of whether requiring cable systems to provide access to their distribution platform for Public, Education, and Government (PEG) access channels is warranted in the era of the Internet. The City of San Antonio strongly asserts that federal and state statutory provisions requiring cable operators to provide system access and financial support for PEG channels continue to be essential and warranted in today's technology driven market place. The Internet is not a substitute for PEG channels, but rather complements local access programming to reach younger and tech savvy members of the community. Without the support for PEG channels, most localities would not have the financial means to develop local programming to distribute over the Internet. In addition, many citizens do not have access to high speed Internet access service due to affordability issues or because Internet service providers have not built the necessary broadband infrastructure. As such, the Internet may not be a suitable platform for distributing information that is now easily accessible via PEG channels.

Like many other communities, the City of San Antonio suffered a set-back in PEG channel support as a result of state legislation passed in 2005 eliminating local cable franchising. At the time, San Antonio's local franchise with the incumbent Time Warner Cable required the cable operator to provide studio facilities and personnel to run the PEG channels. When the cable franchise expired in December 31, 2005, the cable operator no longer had an obligation to provide these services. The city quickly adapted to the new reality by hiring additional personnel and purchasing video equipment to continue local access programming. However, similar studio facilities could not be replicated. Almost a decade later, the city has finally completed the construction of new studios for government and public access channels scheduled to open to the community within the next few months. This achievement could not have been possible without PEG support required under state and federal law. A proposal to eliminate PEG channel capacity would result in terminating any obligation to provide PEG financial support which would have a devastating effect on San Antonio.

For over 40 years, PEG channels have been critical in promoting diversity in quality local programming in our community. In San Antonio, the city operates the Government and Public access channels, while Alamo Colleges runs the Education access channel. Here are a few examples of the positive impacts that PEG channels have in the community:

- **Job Creation** – The city has a team of broadcast professionals that run the Government and Public access channels. This team is responsible for producing over 300 original programs

annually, including more than 80 hours of live city council meetings. Alamo Colleges has a similar team of broadcast professional that operate the Education access channel and produced a similar volume of content.

- **Diversity of Local Content** – The Public access channel currently has more than 200 registered users that mirror the diversity in the community. These public access producers contributed over 900 original programs in fiscal year 2014 representing a wide array of opinions and content.
- **Training** – As a community asset, public access producers have access to studio facilities and mobile equipment, such as cameras, tripods, and mobile editing system, used to produce original programming. City staff provides hundreds of hours of media training to the public access producers on the use of mobile production kits, lighting techniques, and video transcode processes. With the opening of new studio facilities, we expect training to increase.
- **Emergency Information** – The PEG channels are a critical component of the city’s emergency response effort. Under state law, San Antonio has been designated as an evacuation site during hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico that threaten South Texas. During hurricanes Katrina and Rita, San Antonio was host to thousands of evacuees and the PEG channels proved to be the fastest and most accurate outlet to distribute emergency information to the public. The Internet is not a comparable distribution outlet in its ability to reach low income families or the elderly that may not have access to an Internet connection at home or in a retirement facility.
- **Broadcast Education** – Alamo Colleges has integrated the Education channel and related studio facilities into its broadcast education curriculum. Students have the opportunity to use professional broadcast equipment, produce original programming, and broadcast content on the Education access channel. This educational program has graduated countless students that have gone to achieve successful careers in the broadcast and communications industries.
- **Distance Learning** – For several decades, well before the advent of the Internet, Alamo Colleges has used the Education access channel to broadcast college-level courses allowing non-conventional students to matriculate and receive credit for these courses at very affordable prices. Some of these students do not have access to broadband Internet connections at home that would allow them to participate in similar on-line curriculums at potentially higher rates per credit hour.
- **Public Information** – PEG access channels provide public information concerning a wide variety of local topics and events of interest to the community and provide coverage of some of those events, such as city council and school board meetings. This information is essential to maintain an informed populace in a democratic society. Cable operators are prohibited from interfering with the content of PEG channels, with the exception of obscene material, whereas Internet service providers may exercise their first amendment rights to block or otherwise interfere with messages sent over their networks.
- **Access to the Disabled** – PEG access channels are a source of information for the disabled community. For instance, city council meetings are captioned in order to provide access for those

citizens that are hearing impaired. Some communities provide sign language translation of city council meetings and other public events. Internet outlets would not provide these services. In addition, PEG access channels provide visually impaired individuals with access to sources of information that might not be available to them via the Internet.

- **Religious Expression** – The Public access channel is an outlet for religious expression in the community. Some of the longest running original public access programming covers religious topics. In addition, religious services are broadcast as public access programming allowing elderly and disabled citizens to participate in mass and other religious events via broadcast.
- **Non-English Speaking Community** – PEG channels are also an important outlet for reaching members of the non-English speaking community. San Antonio has a large number of Spanish speaking citizens that fall in the low income demographic. It is important to reach these members of the community to inform them of civic rights, public services, and health-related information. The city produces Spanish language programming to reach this local demographic that may not be reached via the Internet.

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) warned in its “Blueprint for Localism in Communications” of the potential detrimental effects that the convergence of communications technologies and industry consolidation may have on local governments, including potential efforts to remove PEG access and support. Any proposal to free cable operators from providing PEG channel system capacity and support based on the argument that such requirement is not warranted in the era of the Internet is inaccurate and short sighted. Such a proposal would eliminate the benefits outlined above and remove the means (technical and financial) to create local content necessary for the democratic process. As these examples demonstrate, the Internet serves a complement to distribute local content, but is not a substitute for PEG access channels.

The City of San Antonio appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and hopes that the Committee will protect local interests as it deliberates on potential new communications and broadband legislation.



Director of Communications and Public Affairs



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
City Manager, Ext. 200
Human Resources, Ext. 203

110 EAST COOK STREET, ROOM #1 • SANTA MARIA, CA 93454-5190 • 805-925-0951 • FAX 805-349-0657 • www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us

January 21, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee on Energy and Commerce
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Via e-mail: commactupdate@mail.house.gov

**Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution –
Response to White Paper # 6**

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the City of Santa Maria (California), I write to urge your Committee to support the requirement that cable companies continue to both provide the Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access channels – and make PEG fee payments.

This letter is in response to your Committee encouraging comments about updating the Communications Act, as per page six of your White Paper issued on December 10th, 2014. One of the members of this Committee is Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara), who represents our City. She is being copied on this letter.

The White Paper states: “Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?”

To put it concisely, PEG greatly benefits our community. Since 2004, the City of Santa Maria has continuously operated Santa Maria Community Television (SMCTV) with a PEG studio and three PEG channels. This operation is supported by a cable television provider - as a valuable resource to the approximately 130,000 residents of Santa Maria and Orcutt in Santa Barbara County. These channels connect residents to their communities, and to greater political, educational, and cultural information.

Further, the City depends on its PEG channels to inform residents about important issues such as pedestrian safety, projects to channel funds to assist the homeless, City programs and services, and a host of other important local topics.

The City last year requested Congress to amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the U.S. Code to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of PEG channel support, to restore and protect funding for PEG operations, to allow states and local governments the flexibility to use PEG funding for legitimate expenses other than capital expenses, and to ensure PEG channels are transmitted without charge to local governments. Today, the City reiterates this request.

For these important reasons, the City of Santa Maria strongly supports the continued support of PEG funding by cable companies. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number or e-mail as listed below.

Sincerely,



Rhonda W. Barnhard
Deputy City Manager
City of Santa Maria
(805) 925-0951 ext 396
rbarnhard@cityofsantamaria.org

cc: Congresswoman Lois Capps via Legislative Director Adriane Casalotti at email:
 and also Senior Legislative Assistant Aaron Shapiro

Congressman Greg Walden via fax (202) 225-5774

Mike Wassenaar, President of Alliance for Community Media via email:


January 21, 2015



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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Submitted via email to commactupdate@mail.house.gov

**RE: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution –
Response to White Paper #6**

Dear Chair Upton, Representative Walden and members of the committee:

The City of Wilsonville, Oregon, understands that the House Energy & Commerce Committee has issued a series of white papers as part of a process for a possible update to the Communications Act. The committee's latest paper (number six) focuses on the regulation of the market for video content and distribution and poses a number of related questions for public comment.

The City seeks to address one question in particular under consideration by the committee: "Cable systems are required to provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. Are these provisions warranted in the era of the Internet?"

The answer in the view of the City is a resounding "yes" — provisions requiring PEG access are still necessary and warranted today.

The convergence of communications technologies led by Internet Protocol and exponential growth of computing power is fundamentally transforming the communications industry. This transformation is taking place at a time of increasing industry consolidation and the concentration of political and economic power in the hands of a few incumbent providers primarily through mergers and acquisitions.

That in turn has led to deregulatory measures, laws and regulations that have the potential to be harmful to the interests of the public and local communities. At stake is local government's

"Serving the community with pride"

ability to ensure provision of important public benefits such as local consumer protection, support for multiple voices in media through Public, Education and Government (“PEG”) programming, and regulation and compensation for the private use of public property, to name just a few.

PEG programming plays an important role in our community, and a loss of cable system access would be detrimental to the continued vitality of PEG operations. The City of Wilsonville actively uses PEG revenues to “bring local government to the people” by providing public access to meetings held by official City boards and commissions at City Hall, both in the Council Chambers and in the work session conference room.

The City has utilized PEG funds for the ongoing acquisition/replacement of equipment that allows meetings of City boards and commissions to be transmitted and viewed in real-time via cable television and over the Internet.

The City also uses the equipment purchased with PEG funds to periodically produce special videos on specific topics under discussion in the community or on proposed public expenditures for major capital projects such as a new wastewater treatment plant or new road. The PEG funds also enable the City to host educational programs on our cable TV channel that are shown in schedule with City and County official meetings.

The City has plans to expand the use of PEG funds for the acquisition of additional equipment that would facilitate the production of more video coverage of additional City-sponsored programs and events in different locations, such as the Public Library and Community Center. Reductions or elimination of PEG funds would effectively prevent the City from enacting new plans designed to provide more opportunities for public participation in events sponsored by local government.

Our community, like many others in America, has a growing percentage of senior population and those with disabilities who are unable to attend public meetings in person. PEG funds enable local government to produce video programs shown on cable TV and the Internet that provide a way for all residents to become engaged in local government and participate in a greater manner in shaping the goals of the community. Additionally, even for the larger more mobile segment of the population, increasing demands on time make it difficult or impossible for many to attend meetings at their scheduled times. Through the PEG channels, the public can also keep apprised of what is going on in the community by watching the meetings at a more convenient or available time.

PEG is an important tool for providing transparency to government, disseminating community information, and offering additional opportunities for education. PEG programming can give communities a forum for local concerns and allow the public a voice via a medium that would otherwise be prohibitively expensive or too exclusionary for their content. While the Internet offers another and possibly a less expensive storage and transport option, PEG provides a means and the education for the creation of original content, as well as offering important government programming that, otherwise, would not exist. Additionally, not all citizens, especially our older citizens, have computer access in their homes.

In a nutshell, PEG funds allow local governments to provide a greater level of public engagement in community decision-making processes. Providing the public with greater opportunities to access and participate in local-government functions and decision-making helps to produce an educated electorate that is crucial for the successful operation of democracy.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges members of the committee to continue the Communications Act requirement that cable systems provide access to their distribution platform in a variety of ways, including program access, leased access channels, and PEG channels. In the era of the Internet, the important PEG tool for public participation is indeed still warranted.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area.

City of Wilsonville

TK/mo

cc: Wilsonville City Council
Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager, City of Wilsonville
Mike Kohlhoff, City Attorney, City of Wilsonville
Katherine Thomas, Assistant General Counsel, League of Oregon Cities
Steve Traylor, Executive Director, NATOA



January 23, 2015
The Hon. Fred Upton
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Upton,

I'm writing on behalf of Community Media Network Television (CMNtv), a public access station in Troy, Michigan. As Executive Director at CMNtv, I feel it's my duty to detail the value of our station—and of PEG programming in general—during a time when the accessibility of the internet may be calling the relevance of our operation into question.

I would first like to touch on CMNtv's involvement with the recording of government programming. While CMNtv is a public access station we are currently contracted by three cities to record their local government meetings. The broadcasting of these meetings is critical for keeping citizens abreast of policy affecting their communities, and perhaps more importantly, to ensuring government transparency in our communities. CMNtv is a producer and custodian of these video records. Removing CMNtv would cloud citizens' view of government and diminish the reliability of record keeping.

CMNtv's primary functions go beyond the scope of the internet. CMNtv not only provides airtime for our citizens' views, but also offers low-cost training and video equipment rentals. Our guidance helps develop citizens' media literacy. Private internet companies may offer a platform to display content, but they do not furnish the resources, mentorship, and guarantee of non-discriminatory service that our facility provides.

Finally, CMNtv serves as a mouthpiece for its citizens. Our producers are able to share their ideas, opinions, and stories on a medium unencumbered by corporate control – and on a channel that directly touches their fellow citizens. The vastness of the internet means content can easily be lost or marginalized, but public access TV directs programming into the households of relevant communities. CMNtv's channel appear alongside other cable channels, which it helps legitimize and highlight the ideas, opinions, and stories of our members. I firmly believe that the greatest care should be taken to preserve the status of PEG programming in our communities.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Weagel
Executive Director
CMNtv

[REDACTED]

From: Artie Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 12:02 PM
To: CommActUpdate
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Regulation of the Market for Video Content and Distribution - Response to White Paper #6

Dear Congressmen Upton and Walden

I'm responding to your consideration of changing the way funding is provided for PEG media. In my local community we have KMVT as a media resource supporting a number of towns. They provide services that would likely be lost were public funding to be removed.

Not only does KMVT provide local citizens a voice through which to communicate their ideas across numerous media channels (broadcast, internet, etc.), they enable unbiased public access to our local governments. Replacing PEG funding with private funding (assuming the funding sources could even be found) would potentially risk turning the model into one slanted by the viewpoint of the donors as well as reduce the opportunities for local citizens to discuss & debate public issues. Also the focus on local issues would likely be lost. This is completely counter to the public benefit of the PEG model as I understand it.

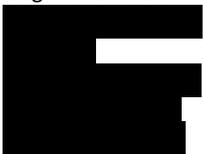
KMVT in addition provides educational services to many segments of our population. They offer media education to community youth and computer/internet/basic technology education to underserved and non-English speakers, to name a few programs. Cutting PEG funding would pretty much kill any such offerings. If bridging the digital divide is a priority for the federal government, these are programs that need to be maintained.

I respectfully ask you to vote to maintain public funding for such media resources. Open communication strengthens our communities and ensures that the voices of common citizens are not drowned out by the big money being spent to influence politics and other aspects of our society.

Respectfully,
Artie Green



Artie Green, CFP®, MBA
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional
Cognizant Wealth Advisors



www.CognizantWealth.com

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