




June 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

As a volunteer board of community media professionals in Massachusetts, we support the comments of the Alliance for Community Media, NATOA and NAB in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding Channel Lineup Requirements (MB Docket No. 18-92 and 17-105). It is our opinion that for far too long the corporations providing cable television services across the country have belittled and discriminated against those of us who foster and produce local content.



I represent MassAccess, a non-profit, 501(c)(6), a membership-based advocacy agency, guided by a volunteer board. Our goal is to ensure the future vitality of Massachusetts based community media centers by developing educational workshops, monitoring legislation, utilizing technology to inform and enhance community media centers, as well as acting as government liaisons to inform supporters across Massachusetts regarding the current political landscape in regards to media.

Consumers and local and state authorities require complete and accurate information about what channels cable operators offer. Local programs of vital importance, including government meetings are not listed on the electronic programming guides so our viewers have no way to record or know when a program is going to be aired. For many home bound and differently abled residents, watching a meeting or program of local interest is their only way to truly engage in their community's activities. For the billions of dollars that the cable companies clear in profits each year, the very least they could do is provide equal treatment to local stations by making electronic program guides available to local media and ending the unfair practice of channel slamming.

The solution outlined by ACM, NATOA and NAB is requiring cable systems to file complete and accurate channel lineups in their online files. We appreciate the Commission's consideration in this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Melinda Garfield
President, MassAccess