

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)

Leased Commercial Access)

Development of Competition and Diversity) MB Docket No. 07-42

Video Programming Distribution and Carriage)

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF Jon C. Moon, owner of Ridgeline TV Channel 99 in Northeast Georgia
& Western North Carolina

These comments are submitted on behalf of Jon C. Moon, in his role as owner and operator of Ridgeline TV, a community television station distributed on a MVPD system owned by Windstream Communications.

For the past eight years my channel, Ridgeline TV, has been providing viewers with local programming in the way of high school and college sports, local concerts, parades, religious programs, hyper-local weather forecasts and community information. Additionally, the channel provides other family-oriented and family values programming such as gospel music programming and family-friendly classic movies.

I will take this opportunity to note that I have been fortunate to be on a MVPD that values local programming and has been cooperative in both technical aspects and rates. I offer a big thanks to Windstream Communications for this. Unfortunately,

from what I've heard through industry contacts, many Leased Access programmers face a huge and almost insurmountable expanse of resistance from MVPDs.

I believe the continuation of Leased Access is extremely important to small programmers like myself. In a time where huge national cable companies make decisions from a far-away and myopic viewpoints, Leased Access gives small – even tiny programmers like Ridgeline TV – a reasonable chance to provide a much needed local voice to viewers. While some rules perhaps need updating to better match the times, a complete dismissal of Leased Access would be a travesty and irresponsible move considering Congress' original intentions.

MVPDs may have some valid arguments on updating some procedural rules, minimum time requirements, etc., but let's take stock of the current situation: We are in a time when a majority of MVPDs have gone all digital. As opposed to the past when MVPDs would be forced into the uncomfortable position of providing Leased Access channels instead of using their (all too sparse) channel space for popular national channels, there should now be a sufficient amount of bandwidth to allow Leased Access to continue. With digital compression of channels, many additional services can now be provided in the same amount of bandwidth. This puts MVPDs into a much healthier and technologically superior situation as to when Leased Access rules began. And it makes arguments that Leased Access should be harder to obtain or completely eliminated very weak. Also, let's remember that MVPDs use our public Right of Ways to provide service. It's not too much to ask that they

comply with Congress' intentions of making it easier to provide a diversity of programming.

One issue I bring before the Commission is how MVPDs deal with Leased Access channel in regards to High Definition (HD) television. While small channel operators like myself struggle to upgrade fully to HD, that is currently my future game plan. The current rules don't seem to address this (as they were written before the advent of HD) and some clarity needs to be developed. I'm afraid many MVPDs – despite reclamation of bandwidth with going to a fully digital plant – will be able to arbitrarily keep Leased Access channels from going HD. I ask the Commission to address this.

Respectfully submitted,

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