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Mansfield Board of Selectpersons  
Michael Trowbridge, Chairman  
6 Park Row  
Mansfield, MA 02048

Dear Mr. Trowbridge,

I want to bring to your attention a proposed FCC rule change (FNPRM) that looks to limit the amount of spending for public, education and government channels by cable companies. Through this rule change, Verizon and Comcast are looking to stop funding Mansfield Cable and its programming. Funding that was *originally* negotiated as part of their licensing agreements with cities and towns.

Community access to cable television studios, equipment and airtime was a huge incentive when cable was introduced in most cities and towns in the 1980s. Competing cable companies promised to build studios and provide training to anyone in the community who wanted to produce a program. Local Cable companies also promised to provide airtime and equipment to broadcast local government meetings, elections and other events. Those benefits were *in addition* to the cable franchising fees, the money company's pay in exchange for access to customers in specific geographic areas.

This proposed rule change would severely impact the present and future of Mansfield Cable and the award-winning programming it provides to residents, students and families. The local taxpayer, the local cable subscriber and the everyday citizens who rely on access to public information that is provided through these programs will be negatively impacted. The proposed cap to Verizon/Comcast spending would make it nearly impossible to cover the expense of local programs and educational projects. It is my feeling that the rule change is designed to benefit Verizon and Comcast, at the expense of Mansfield and area residents.

The Cable Access Board is looking for your support in rallying against this rule change.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Sibilgia, DMD  
President Mansfield Cable Access