# Peter Higgins

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**Promises Broken**

The Taunton Community Cable Advisory Committee want to go on record as Vehemently opposed to Bill 05-311 Massachusetts’s Congressman Joe Moakley was the champion and FCC watchdog of Cable Television for all the right reasons of the benefits it promised to communities. Local programing, Municipal meetings with informational bulletin boards, and the development of Electronic Telecommunications Programs in the community’s schools. Initially communities received up to 5% of cables gross based on cable, Internet and telephony. After Congressman Moakley passed away the FCC removed Internet and Telephone serves from franchise fees. This reduced revenues to a growing P.E.G. community. The reason, more cable profit.

Cable initially provided an access studio in their facilities operated by their staff and produced excellent programing, However Cable soon wanted out of the video production aspect and offered communities revenue in Capital Grant Funding and the 5% Access Fee, to build and staff their own studios and local programing, which Taunton does and quite well. Taunton does so while only using a 4%, access fee, always maintaining fiscal responsibility. On the other hand Cable just wanted to get out of the video production business and concentrate on a single item, selling video services. All for one reason more profit!

Cable companies have resorted to circumventing revenues already by bundling services in their so called triple play deal reducing consumer price when purchasing all three services. The scam however is to reduce the packaged cable cost and add to the other two thus reducing the franchise fee charge. Again for more profit!

Cables worse case is moving programing from their cable channel line up and selling them as an internet service, such as hulu, netflx and others removing further revenue from local franchise fees that would help fund P.E.G. programing

Now Bill 05-311 wants to reduce Cable Franchises fiscal responsibility to communities they serve even further. Bill 05-311 would be the most devastating legislation I have ever witnessed in my 35 year of service on the TCCAC. Now one can only hope that the FCC can recall Congressman Moakley’s dream and hold cables feet to the fire and keep his dreams and cables PROMISES avlive