

The Lexington Community Media Center, Inc (LexMedia) would like to provide comments on the "Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making" that proposes new rules that, if adopted, will have a significant impact on cable franchise fees and therefore our operation.

Comments

As with many of the laws that come out of government, these new rules have unintended consequences. Simply put, if these new rules are adopted, jobs will be lost. We would not be able to continue with our current staffing levels if our cable providers were allowed to subtract money from the 5% franchise fee for in-kind contributions. In fact, one or more of our cable companies could claim that they have provided in-kind hardware (e.g. fiber optic lines and cable box converters) whose market value equals or exceeds the 5% franchise fee which means we would have to close down entirely.

In Conclusion

The town of Lexington, Massachusetts - the birthplace of American liberty and free speech, relies on LexMedia to provide quality and informative public programming to our 34,000 residents. If these new rules are adopted it could severely curtail our ability to provide the quality and quantity of programs and possibly to even stay in business.

LexMedia's Background

LexMedia was formed in 2005 to provide PEG programming to the residents of Lexington Massachusetts and is run by a Board of Directors numbering 14. Our programming is carried by three cable operators: Verizon, Comcast and RCN over a total of 12 channels. In the past 5 years we have won a total of 13 awards, both regional and national. In 2017 alone, we covered 270 government committee meetings for a total 820 hours, that are invaluable to our residents. One of our most popular shows, "Coffee with the Candidates" is the only way some citizens get to know and then determine who to vote for in local and state elections.

Respectively submitted,

LexMedia Board of Directors

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