



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT EMERITA

SENATOR HARRIETTE L. CHANDLER
PRESIDENT EMERITA

First Worcester District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 333
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
(617) 722-1544

HARRIETTE.CHANDLER@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

December 10, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed FCC rule change (Docket No. 05-311,) which seeks to allow major cable companies to severely curtail the amount of funding they provide to local cable access channels as part of licensing agreements previously negotiated with individual municipalities. The approval of this rule is expected to cut funding for public, educational, and governmental channels by at least two thirds, further restricting access that many of my neediest constituents rely upon to remain engaged with and informed upon events in our communities.

Worcester Community Cable Access, the public access channel for our City, serves a vital role in my communities. WCCA provides my constituents with access to local news that directly impacts them, allows their elected officials, including members of the state legislature, to communicate directly with constituents, and enables residents to follow and engage with events happening in their communities.

I are deeply concerned that a defunding of local cable access channels would serve to further isolate and disadvantage my constituents who already struggle with barriers to access and participation in our community. I strongly oppose this proposed rule, and urge that you reconsider this abdication of corporate responsibility on the part of cable companies. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Harriette L. Chandler

Harriette L. Chandler
State Senator
First Worcester District

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0