

HCCAM TV

Hingham Community Access and Media

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Hingham Community Access & Media
35 Pond Park Rd. Suite 8
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Re: Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video (DN 16-41)

I am writing on behalf of **Hingham Community Access & Media, a small and relatively new community access & media provider for the town of Hingham, a bedroom community to Boston on the shores of Massachusetts.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information for the FCC's inquiry,

The FCC asks the following questions regarding Public, Educational and Government Access channels in the inquiry:

"We seek comment on MVPD's practices with respect to making PEG programming information available to subscribers. To the extent that MVPDs do not make this information available, is this for technical reasons, and if so, can the technical barriers be surmounted? Is the Congressionally-imposed prohibition against editorial control of PEG channels relevant to this issue? What is the source of the Commission's authority in this area, if any?"

We face many challenges as a result of not having our programming able to be seen in electronic programming guides, the most prominent of which is that people don't know where to find us. Those that do know where to find us rarely know what is on, and most of our viewers are used to being able to set a DVR to record a specific program as listed in the EPG; this however is not possible with no EPG information. We also struggle with people knowing what they are watching when they are watching it. We are forced to give up part of our screen to show a "bug" or logo that lets them know they have found their local channel. We must also schedule frequent "snipes" (on screen overlays) to appear over programming several times per hour to list the program description information. This is a major inconvenience for both our programming staff and our viewers.

The FCC also asks a series of questions about the ability of independent channels to achieve distribution on MVPD systems and the negotiating practices of MVPDs.

We have never been able to deliver an HD product over our cable systems (Comcast & Verizon FiOS). We do however deliver an HD signal right up to their equipment before it is stepped down to SD because this is the only platform they will give us. This results in our programming looking less desirable than any of

the programming adjacent to it, despite language in our cable contracts requiring them to do so.
Comcast's license states:

"The Licensee shall monitor the PEG Access Channels for technical quality and shall ensure that it is maintained at standards commensurate with those which apply to the Cable System's commercial channels"

Verizon's license states:

"The Licensee shall monitor the PEG Channels for technical quality and shall ensure that they are maintained at standards the same or better than those which apply to the Cable System's commercial channels"

While we always strive for the very best in technical quality our restriction to standard definition and only mono sound puts us at an immediate disadvantage. We have had to rely heavily on the content we are able to post online as it is really the only platform which allows us to truly show our high technical standards. Pointing people, however, at all of these different channel platforms also presents many challenges for promoting a unified operation and brand.

We appreciate the opportunity to enter this information into the record.

Sincerely,



Eric Dresser

Executive Director,
Hingham Community Access & Media