



April 19, 2016

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

Re: Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video (DN 16-41)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of Thurston Community Television (TCTV). TCTV manages the public, educational, and governmental cable access channels and production facilities serving greater Thurston County, Washington. We serve a population of 260,000 including the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, and the capital city of Olympia. We are the ONLY local television service in the Washington capital city. All of the broadcast affiliates are located 60 miles north in Seattle.

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?"

Without specific programming data visible on the programming guide, our viewers have no way of knowing when programs will air. They cannot set their DVR to record specific programs. We are all but invisible to the viewing public. We have tried, unsuccessfully, for several years to get our programming schedule included on the Programming Guide. Comcast has refused our request, stating that our current franchise only requires them to identify our channel with our call letters and a generic programming description. We interpret the franchise differently, but, to move the process forward we have offered to pay

for the service. Comcast still refuses. It is a frustrating situation that severely limits our ability to promote our programming to all cable 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.

Our current franchise does not require HD channels or provide a process for getting HD distribution. We anticipate negotiating for HD capacity in the franchise renewal in 2018.

We are currently producing all media in HD standards and will be upgrading our playback system to HD capability before the end of the franchise term. We will be ready for HD channels as soon as they are available to us.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah S. Vinsel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Deborah S. Vinsel, CEO
Thurston Community Television