

As the executive director of Public Access Television in Iowa City, IA, and a frequenter of local telecommunications commission meetings, I know that the city has been seeking competition for our cable provider since the first franchise in 1979. Iowa City has been unsuccessful in securing any offers, although there is no barrier to entry in the market. I hope the FCC will see the wisdom of keeping in place the long-proven system of local franchising authorities.

Making our own franchise agreements has served Iowa City well for almost three decades. Fundamental to preserving democracy is maintaining franchise fees (determined by the localities) to fund local PEG stations. In Iowa city, our six access channels provide thousands of hours of new community programming yearly, as well as access to production tools, equipment and training. All of this continues to be possible thanks to local franchising authority.

Thank you for your time.