

Local franchising is important to our local cities and communities. Citizens and communities have the right to control local telecommunications and media. Telecommunications companies and corporations need to be accountable to the needs of consumers and citizens. Without local franchises local communities won't have an way to make sure companies don't overcharge, provide universal service or respond adequately to customer complaints.

Local franchises are essential in the operation of PEG TV which provides services such as: supporting localism in the media, and the making and airing of programs that reflect diversity. PEG TV is very important in providing a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and community organizations can express their viewpoints and opinions. It's a part of democracy to have the widest range of ideas possible is made available to the public and PEG TV plays an important role in doing this, as I'm sure you are aware.

I'm a supporter of Public Access TV in in Thurston County (Washington state), and I urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises -- it means a lot to a lot of people. People over profits! Thanks very much.