

re:Opening the "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Docket #05-311

Dear FCC Staff and Commissioners:

Verizon and other telecommunications service providers have made it a priority to amend the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to weaken or eliminate municipal cable franchising. I fear as phone companies begin to provide the same service as cable companies, they are going to do away with the need to deal with local regulatory authorities and requirements. I am sure that you are well aware of the importance of local non-commercial cable channels, the last remaining opportunity for discourse on the dissemination of local information and entertainment.

My view and experience is that other than some event that has area-wide consequences, commercial television media and the two largest Boston newspapers don't cover news-worthy happenings in Cambridge. We here in Cambridge only have one local newspaper-the Cambridge Chronicle. It tries to cover the most outstanding events. Understandably, a limit of news space makes that a matter of editor's choice. So folks like me are fortunate to be able to tune in to our local TV channels (Municipal TV8, Cambridge Educational Channels 95 and 98, and Cambridge Community TV (CCTV) 9, 10 and 22. They help to keep us informed and entertained through local telecasts and satellite about local and national issues and views, personal forums, arts and entertainment. Many of those are being addressed by/to Cambridge community residents,from youngsters to elderslike me. As well, I am proud and happy to say that CCTV has given me a place to display my artistic interest for the past four years.

Please help us to remain vibrant. Please help us to survive.

Yours truly,

Maurice Anderson