

As a consumer I have been dissatisfied with my local cable company: service is unreliable, picture quality is unacceptable, technological advances like HDTV are slow in coming, and last (but certainly not least) the service is overpriced. Like in most localities in Virginia, only one cable provider serves my area. Simply stated, if you live in an Adelphia neighborhood (as I do) you subscribe to Adelphia cable service; if you in a Cox neighborhood you subscribe to Cox cable service. I can only receive cable TV from one...single...sole provider. Citizens need more cable TV choices.

As the citizen chairman of Cable Choice Now! Coalition, we were a driving force behind updating antiquated cable TV laws here in Virginia in order to bring Commonwealth residents real cable choices. I can tell you that consumers, ALL CONSUMERS, should be in the driver's seat when it comes to cable choice.

Regardless of the various side issues that opponents try to throw in front of this train, the fact remains that competitive markets are the engine that drives this country's economic system. Allowing a small group of businesses an inordinate amount of control over a critical communications medium is indefensible and must end. I am grateful for your efforts so far and I encourage the Commission to continue working to provide cable choice to all the people of the United States.

On December 20, please vote yes on Chairman Martin's cable franchise reform proposal. Competition is good for consumers, and it's the only thing that will control cable TV prices. We can't afford the status quo. Please help us by encouraging competition