

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Annual Assessment of the Status of  
Competition in the Market for the  
Delivery of Video Programming

MB Docket No. 06-189  
MB Docket No. 05-311

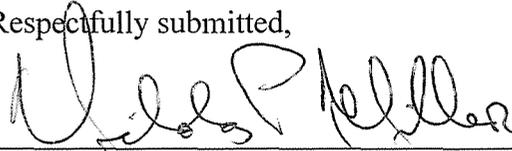
**REPLY COMMENTS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and Montgomery County, Maryland (together referred to herein as the “Maryland Counties”) respectfully submit these Reply Comments in response to the Notice of Inquiry, FCC 06-154, released by the Commission on October 20, 2006 (“NOI”).<sup>1</sup>

The Maryland Counties filed comments in this proceeding on November 29, 2006, to emphasize the contributions of local cable franchising to the advancement of competition in the video marketplace and the lack of wisdom in attempting to impose additional federal regulation on the local franchising process. In light of the Commission’s disappointing action on December 20, 2006, the Commission appears unwilling to look at the facts and successful experience of local governments in acting to further competition. We are happy to share more information with the Commission when and if it would be useful to the Commission’s consideration. However, further detailed comments appear to be of no use at the present. For the record, the Maryland Counties reaffirm their criticisms of the materials filed by

Verizon, AT&T, BellSouth, and similar commenters, and remind the Commission that federal intrusions into the franchising process such as those apparently contemplated by the December 20 action are both bad policy and contrary to applicable law.

Respectfully submitted,



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Counsel for Anne Arundel County and Montgomery  
County, Maryland

December 29, 2006

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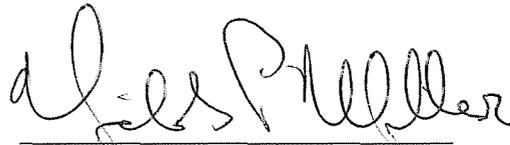
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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming*, MB Docket No. 06-189, Notice of Inquiry, FCC 06-154 (October 20, 2006).

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 47 C.F.R. § 76.6(a)(4)**

The below-signed signatory has read the foregoing Comments of Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County, Maryland, and, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law; and it is not interposed for any improper purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 29, 2006

Date