

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

In the matter of)
)
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable)
Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended) MB Docket No. 05-311
by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and)
Competition Act of 1992)
)

COMMENTS OF
_____ [name of community or PEG organization]
IN RESPONSE TO THE FURTHER NOTICE
OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Double Helix Corporation submits these comments in response to the Further Notice of Proposal Rulemaking, released March 5, 2007, in the above-captioned rulemaking (“Further Notice”).

1. **The City of St. Louis Communications Division** is the local franchising authority for the City of St. Louis. Double Helix Corporation operates two cable access stations serving 60,000 cable households in a city with a population of 350,000. There is one cable operator jurisdiction. This cable operator, Charter Communications holds a franchise, through a City Ordinance, that expires in 2016 .

2. **Double Helix Corporation** supports and adopts the comments of the Alliance for Community Media, the Alliance for Communications Democracy, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the National

League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, filed in response to the Further Notice.

3. We oppose the Further Notice's tentative conclusion (at ¶ 140) that the findings made in the FCC's March 5, 2007, Order in this proceeding should apply to incumbent cable operators, whether at the time of renewal of those operators' current franchises, or thereafter. This proceeding is based on Section 621(a)(1) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 541(a)(1), and the rulings adopted in the Order are specifically, and entirely, directed at "facilitat[ing] and expedit[ing] entry of new cable competitors into the market for the delivery of video programming, and accelerat[ing] broadband deployment" (Order at ¶ 1).

4. We disagree with the rulings in the Order, both on the grounds that the FCC lacks the legal authority to adopt them and on the grounds that those rulings are unnecessary to promote competition, violate the Cable Act's goal of ensuring that a cable system is "responsive to the needs and interests of the local community," 47 U.S.C. § 521(2), and are in conflict with several other provisions of the Cable Act. But even assuming, for the sake of argument, that the rulings in the Order are valid, they cannot, and should not, be applied to incumbent cable operators. By its terms, the "unreasonable refusal" provisions of Section 621(a)(1) apply to "additional competitive franchise[s]," not to incumbent cable operators. Those operators are by definition already in the market, and their future franchise terms and conditions are governed by the franchise renewal provisions of Section 626 (47 U.S.C. § 546), and not Section 621(a)(1).

5. We strongly endorse the Further Notice’s tentative conclusion (at para. 142) that Section 632(d)(2) (47 U.S.C. § 552(d)(2)) bars the FCC from “preempt[ing] state or local customer service laws that exceed the Commission’s standards,” and from “preventing LFAs and cable operators from agreeing to more stringent [customer service] standards” than the FCC’s.

Respectfully submitted,

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