



Citizens With a Vision  
P.O. Box 714  
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October 23, 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

*RE: MB DOCKET 07-51*

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

I am writing to express our amazement that the FCC is considering rules that would undo the current broadband and video contracts that have made new digital technologies affordable to urban and low-income residents.

Cable providers – which now offer Internet, video and phone services – have invested in many middle-class multiple-dwelling units (MDUs) because the building owners could guarantee a pool of potential customers and therefore a return on their investment. This has resulted in affordable services for our communities, helped combat the digital divide, and brought educational opportunities for our children.

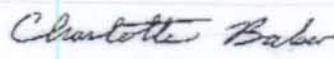
That is why it is so puzzling that the FCC seems intent to nullify these agreements. I support your intent to promote greater competition, but I think it is important to note that had these agreements not been in place, our families might not have had a single provider of cable or Internet service to begin with. Without these arrangements, we might not have had low cost entertainment afforded by cable providers, and not had high-speed Internet that every expert believes is so critical to economic participation in the twenty-first Century.

I am also concerned because this is not the first instance where the FCC is siding with special interests at the expense of minorities and low-income residents. First, the Commission's pursuit of *a la carte* regulations is opposed by nearly every expert and civil rights leader because it will result in higher prices and less diversity on cable. Likewise, the Commission has tried to put an end to the anti-discrimination rules in video franchising agreements that have been so critical to spreading video and Internet services into low-income neighborhoods.

My family and I are also concerned that the Commission will hastily come down yet again on the side of industry at the expense of African-Americans and Hispanics at a time when the government should be fighting on our behalf. I respectfully ask that the Commission closely examine any proposed rule – especially one terminating low-priced cable contracts for residents of multiple-dwelling units – to avoid unnecessary harm to America's urban landscape.

Respectfully,

  
Ryan Canty

  
Charlotte Baker