

Dear FCC Commissioners:

Today, on the front page, the Tampa Tribune published some statistics that were astounding.

In September, 2008 in the state of Nevada, 1 in 82 household units received a notice of foreclosure. In my state, Florida, the numbers were 1 in 178 to rank second in the nation.

Also, in Florida, in just September, 47956 foreclosure filings were issued.

I'm sure that many of the foreclosures were for houses or condominiums in large developments with home owner's associations.

In many of these MDUs the cable TV/internet service is covered by an exclusive contract (usually between the developer and the provider) in which the residents are bulk billed as part of the HOA dues. Taking the services is normally mandatory and there is no "opt-out" option. Failure to pay the cable TV/internet bills through the HOA dues usually results in a lien being placed on the property by the HOA.

But when some residents default on their dues, for various reasons, or go into foreclosure and stop paying dues altogether, these short-falls in funds result in the HOAs issuing special assessments to the remaining dues-paying residents. This eliminates the only VALID reason the cable TV/internet industry can use to justify the necessity for exclusive contracts -- lower rates to the customers.

In Florida, in September there should have been 47956 disconnects made by the cable TV industry. Instead there are HOAs paying cable TV/internet providers for SERVICES RENDERED to thousands of EMPTY HOUSES since service is not automatically shut off when payments are not made. Of course that means the dues-paying neighbors of these EMPTY HOUSES are paying their NEIGHBOR'S cable TV/internet bills through higher special assessments.

With these assessments ranging from \$200 to several thousands of

dollars and with foreclosure numbers escalating at an alarming rate, the time for the Commissioners to act as long since been passed. The practice of REQUIRING neighbors to pay their NEIGHBOR'S CABLE bills is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!!!!

If you do not have the courage to BAN the use of EXCLUSIVE CONTRACTS and BULK BILLING for cable TV/ internet services, at the very least REQUIRE the providers to DISCONNECT service for non-paying customers AND STOP BILLING for EMPTY HOUSES!!!!!!!!!!!!