

Hello, I am a regular viewer of public access television, Im also a successful realtor in Michigan (yes, even now...).

I'll get right to the point: the fact that any person or group of people in my community can produce a program and submit it to PAC and have it aired on regular cable television is an extremely important concept. I also find it intriguing and entertaining!

I tell others about the public access station quite regularly and I find that if people don't already know about this service, they are usually amazed that it exists. I love watching the show where the Mayor of Grand Rapids comes on to address community issues, I watch the local music video show, the home repair show, and then there are a couple of shows that feature people just simply talking about what is important to them. I love these! I call in.

The issue Im concerned with today is the trivialization of our community voices by the cable companies who are "hosting" this free content to our community. The Cable companies are trying to move the public access channels away from where they currently exist, which is right among the rest of the local and basic channels. These are the voices of people in our community! They should be categorized in with the channels the average person watches.

I have also heard that some networks are thinking about removing Public Access channels from broadcast altogether and putting all channels on a single channel that you have to use a computer menu to access. This is just wrong!

In order for Public Access Television to survive, it can't be trivialized, it must be supported. It must also remain available to as many people as possible to be able to watch.

Thanks for for your consideration.

Peter Bruinsma

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