

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20554

RE: Petitions for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels, MB Docket No. 09-13, CSR 8126 (ACM et al.), CRS 8127 (City of Lansing, MI), and CSR 8128 (City of Dearborn, MI et al.)

Dear Commissioner:

We need local content and “free speech” access for all noncommercial content. We should not have to pay extra to get this content either. The airwaves are ours, not the corporations.

On January 30, 2009, the Alliance for Community Media and a coalition of community media groups, municipalities and regional organizations filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling regarding the treatment of local public, educational and governmental access ("PEG") channels on the AT&T U-verse cable TV system. PEG access is required by law to be treated the same in quality, placement, and functionality as local broadcast channels on cable system. It is very important that the provisions of the law be upheld and enforced, to preserve Congress' intent of preserving localism, diversity and free speech.

In a separate Petition for Declaratory Ruling, a group of Michigan cities led by Dearborn has asked for relief concerning Comcast's plan to digitize PEG channels, requiring basic service subscribers to pay extra just to continue to receive PEG channels. Like AT&T's practices, Comcast's practices are contrary to law and greatly threaten the future of PEG.

I urge the FCC to promptly grant the Alliance's Petition and Dearborn's Petition. The very existence of PEG access is threatened by practices such as those described in the filings. I congratulate you for the speedy opening of the comment period, and trust that the remainder of the process will be equally efficient and deliberate.

I look forward to a positive resolution of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Fred Nagel
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