

3/9/2009

Re: Proceeding 09-13

I am writing to express my anger that Verizon is attempting to relegate public access to a digital Siberia by using electronic smoke and mirrors to deprive the public of access to its own airwaves. I urge the FCC to require Verizon to give EQUAL treatment to public access stations as they do to commercial stations in terms of access to the same electronic services. Verizon's U-verse system discriminates against public access by depriving viewers of the ability to record programs for personal use. Nearly all my personal viewing is time shifted and Verizons system would make it impossible for me to stay connected with my local community.

Further I urge the FCC to reinstate the requirement that all cable/telephone TV providers fully support their local public access system. I believe that Verizon and all cable providers should be REQUIRED to increase their FINANCIAL support for Public access.

Verizon is a stalking horse for the cable companies. If Verizon succeeds in relegating public access to the digital wasteland, so too will Time Warner and Comcast.

The FCC needs to take a hard hand to Verizon and firmly tell them, they must serve the public interest or they won't be allowed to operate TV cable systems. Their digital Fios network has some technical differences from cable, but in principle the outcome of these technologies is nearly the same. They should not be exempt from the same requirements as cable companies.

Further there should not be any attack on the autonomy of a municipality to negotiate their own cable TV franchises and any city or local refusing to carry Verizon needs to have the right to shut them out of their communities.

Sincerely,

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