

...television of the people, by the people, for the people



The Peoples Channel

Chapel Hill & Orange County's community
media center & public access television station

300 South Elliot Rd. Suite AC,
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(fax) 919.960.0089
www.ThePeoplesChannel.org

Chad A. Johnston
Executive Director
johnston@thepeopleschannel.org
919.960.0088

March 25, 2009

Ms. Marilyn Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 09-13 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channels, Alliance for Community Media CRS-8126, the City of Lansing, Michigan CSR-8127 and the City of Dearborn, Michigan CSR-8128

We ask the FCC to preserve local PEG Channels by granting the petitions of the Alliance for Community Media CRS-8126, the City of Lansing, Michigan CSR-8127 and the City of Dearborn, Michigan CSR-8128. These petitions will stop the harmful acts by AT&T, Comcast and others that will make PEG channels less accessible to the public in each community.

AT&T's system makes these PEG channels hard to find, deprived of timed DVR recording capability, deprived of channel surfing capability and deprived of closed captioning or a second audio program. PEG channel offerings will be further invisible to viewers due to AT&T excluding PEG program information from program listings and channel guides. In Michigan, the Dearborn petition notes problems created there when Comcast placed PEG channels in a less accessible location with added expense to the customer.

Our community served over 500 nonprofits and community groups last fiscal year providing an invaluable service. We train youth, the senior community, and community members how to use media effectively for positive social change, education and outreach.

Our community programming is important and we depend on PEG channels for this local perspective. PEG channels must be treated with the same quality and care as broadcast and out-of town satellite channels. Our community fairly negotiated a cable TV franchise that provided for local channels and support. We need and expect those channels to be here now and in the future.

We ask the FCC to act now to preserve the intent of Congress and grant all three petitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Johnston'.

Chad A. Johnston
Executive Director
The Peoples Channel