

March 31, 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.

Living in the shadow of the Portland media, the suburban area we serve rarely receives any attention from electronic media. MetroEast Community Media's PEG channels provide the only source of local information and are the sole source of coverage of local events by electronic media.

MetroEast provides a voice to area local non-profit organizations that otherwise can't cut through the "noise" of commercial media to let the community know about the services they offer and how the community can help support them.

MetroEast provides access to local governments that keeps area residents informed about the actions of their governments and gives elected officials a way to receive feedback from constituents that would otherwise not be available.

MetroEast plays an important role in providing video services and education to the several school districts we serve. We cover local school board meetings and send trainers into local classrooms to work with teachers and students, using video as a vehicle for the basic curriculum and to teach media literacy.

Perhaps most important of all, MetroEast channels create an electronic public green space, a public square, where we can discuss and disagree and persuade about who we

are and what kind of community we are and want to be. Our options for these conversations are limited, particularly in an area where our communities are often dwarfed by the 800-pound Portland gorilla next to us.

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,

Robert Brading
Chief Executive Officer
MetroEast Community Media
829 NE 8th St.
Gresham, OR 97030
www.metroeast.org

2. Instructions to file FCC reply comments supporting the Alliance for Community Media and partner petitions to preserve PEG access channels.

To file via email, go to the FCC comments page at

http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi

Complete the "Cover Sheet" on that page. Use this information, step by step:

1. The docket number is **09-13**.
2. Mail Correspondence to: leave "Name selected"
3. Put in the name of the organization or individual.
- 4-5: leave blank; 6 (email) is optional
- 7-10. Put in mailing address, city, state, zip
11. Leave blank
12. Scroll down to "Reply"

Attach a letterhead reply (better if saved in PDF) under Send Comment Files to FCC. You do NOT need a signature for an electronic version. Press send button.

You may also print and mail to:

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