

03/31/09

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Public access, educational and governmental programming (PEG) is an essential resource for communities. As commercial news organizations cut back, PEG stations provide vital local news and information.

To fully realize the educational and democratic value of PEG programming, PEG channels must be as accessible as commercial basic channels and must not cost more, require different electronics equipment, or be more difficult to view.

AT&T and Comcast have been illegally discriminating against PEG channels by creating substantial hurdles for viewers who wish to watch them. The FCC should clarify its existing rules and regulations, and state clearly that PEG channels must be placed on an equal footing with commercial basic channels in cable systems.