

September 29, 2010

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *In the Matter of Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Public, Educational, and Governmental Programming*, MB Docket No. 09-13; CSR-8126, CSR-8127.

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I have read the emergency petition filed by the McAllen Independent School District, asking the FCC to issue a standstill order that prevents cable operators from changing the way in which they deliver PEG in a manner that makes the channels less accessible or more expensive, pending resolution of the issues in this docket.

I support this petition, and urge the Commission to promptly issue the requested order. I am in complete agreement that PEG channels should be available to all subscribers and there should be no barriers to receiving them. As a video producer for GRS-TV, the Garland ISD broadcast services department, I have a strong opinion regarding this matter and how it affects our community. It is impossible for me to count the number of people who approach me on a consistent basis to comment on our programming, or ask questions about something they've seen on our channels. One of my favorite encounters was when my mail delivery person approached me one day after recognizing my name from one of the shows that I produced. We talked for a few minutes about his children in the district, and how much his entire family gets out of the programs that we produce.

It's people like this that I want to keep as viewers and I feel that everyone in our community should be able to easily find and watch our channels, no matter the situation. Additionally, I feel strongly that people should not have to pay extra for digital converter boxes, unless the service that they originally signed up for required them to do so. Our PEG channels provide entertainment, news, sports, education and information that our community cannot get anywhere else. Everything that we do is centered on the local community, and the responses that I get from viewers tell me that what we do is indeed important and necessary.

By granting the petition, the Commission will maintain the status quo while it considers the broader issues in this docket. We are a shining example of why exactly the *1984 Cable Act* was written, and for that matter, why the *1969 First Report and Order* and subsequent orders were originally issued. PEG channels are now, and should continue to be, available to all basic cable subscribers, on both analog and digital systems. The bandwidth space created by switching PEG channels to digital only is not enough to justify the costs that will in turn be passed along to subscribers. It pains me to think of every television at every school, community center and government facility that will need a converter. Please, do not allow the cable companies to increase their revenue by charging customers for unnecessary and complicated equipment. Allowing operators to evade or erode those obligations is inconsistent with the basic purposes of the 1984 Cable Act.

Sincerely,
Larry K. Grimes
Producer/Director, GRS-TV
Garland, TX
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