

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Annual Assessment of the Status of)	MB Docket No. 12-203
Competition in the Market for the)	
Delivery of Video Programming)	

**COMMENTS OF
Thurston Community Television**

Thurston Community Television (TCTV) submits these comments in response to the above captioned Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”), released July 20, 2012, seeking “data, information, and comment on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming.”

TCTV is a 501(c)(3) corporation providing Public, Educational, and Governmental access channel and facility management services to the cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater and the County of Thurston in Washington State. We offer residents, organizations and agencies with access to digital media production tools, training in digital media production techniques, and distribution of completed media programs through local cable channels.

Comcast Xfinity is the primary MVPD operator in greater Thurston County with serving approximately 65,000 subscribers in the above-mentioned jurisdictions. Currently there are four active PEG channels serving Olympia, Lacey Tumwater and Thurston County. Fairpoint Communications provides service to the greater Yelm area in the eastern part of Thurston County with approximately 2000 subscribers with three channels.

The current Comcast franchise was signed in April 2009. PEG channel on both systems are currently available to ALL subscribers on all tiers of service as required by the existing franchises. Comcast Ch. 3 / Fairpoint Ch. 3 carries government programming for Olympia, Lacey, Thurston County. Comcast 22 / Fairpoint 22 is public access for all residents and organizations in Thurston County. Comcast 77 / Fairpoint 23 carries educational access programming and local affairs programming produced by TCTV. Comcast 26 is designate for use by City of Tumwater and Tumwater schools only.

TCTV has served our community for more than 25 years. We schedule more than 17,000 hours of programming on our channels each year, 65% created by local individuals, groups, and agencies. Programming on the TCTV channels empowers individuals to speak for themselves, brings local government deliberations to viewers, showcases our community's vibrant culture and connects neighbors. Fortunately, cable franchising is still managed by local municipalities. Thousands of messages are seen on the Community Bulletin boards that air between programs.

There is not a single broadcast television outlet in the City of Olympia, Washington's capital city, or the greater Thurston County area. The closest network affiliate is located in Seattle, 60 miles to the north. Without a broadcast presence in Thurston County, programming on the TCTV channels fills an important role in providing information about local issues, people and events that is unavailable through mainstream television media.

Our local franchising authorities understand the communication needs of our community and negotiated a strong franchise agreement with necessary

support for TCTV. Our facility, channels, and capital funds would not exist without the efforts of our local jurisdictions and their ability to manager our public rights of way in the best interest of the community. PEG channels are a critical and irreplaceable resource for our community.

The public's interest is much more than consumer consideration. We ask the Commission to consider the public interest value of PEG channels and services as a resource to individual communities while considering regulatory issues about cable services and emerging distribution technologies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Deborah S. Vinsel, CEO
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