

99-360 Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees

Time Warner is dropping an important channel to rural New England. They are dropping the New England Cable News Network (NECN).

I reside in Massachusetts but because of FCC rules my cable programming is in the Albany, New York Market. Time Warner does not provide adequate programming of public interest to its Massachusetts customers. Right now they will only allow one Boston channel on our system. There are 18 channels that serve the Boston area and there are eight that serve the Springfield, MA area that should be available to all Massachusetts consumers. Springfield is the largest community in the rural western half of Massachusetts.

I want to know what is the important news in my state, not New York.

I do all of my business in Massachusetts. I do not want to see Albany, New York television commercials. I want to see television commercials for goods and services that I can purchase in Massachusetts.

Perhaps television consumers should be able to choose programming 'a-la-carte'. This would provide consumers with the programming they want at a cost they can afford. They have it now in Canada.