Nixon, Andrea (DPU)

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Russo [charles.a.russo@verizon.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:46 PM
To: Director Alicia C. Matthews
Subject: Please support faster cable TV licensing

Dear Director Matthews

Verizon recently filed a proposal with the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that simply establishes a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive cable franchise process. A faster process for competitive providers is a win for consumers. It brings the benefits of more competition into a market in need of choice. In cities and towns across the country, cable competition lowers costs for consumers by 25 percent and improves quality of service.

Verizon has invested millions of dollars to bring state-of-the-art fiber optic technology to thousands of Massachusetts homes. While Verizon has licenses in several municipalities to offer consumers a choice for cable TV, residents in many more communities are still waiting for competition.

Simply put, the existing process for offering cable franchises is outdated. It was designed for what turned out to be a monopoly market, but times have changed - and the consumers want more choice.

Verizon has said it plans to continue to expand its FiOS TV service to as many consumers as possible. This investment is not only good for consumers but for the economy as well. In fact, a faster licensing process will also encourage additional investment in our infrastructure and contribute to job growth.

As a Verizon employee, I am writing to ask that you please approve Verizon's proposal to bring Massachusetts consumers more choice for cable TV services - it just makes sense.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Russo
24 Grafton St
Wakefield, MA 01880