



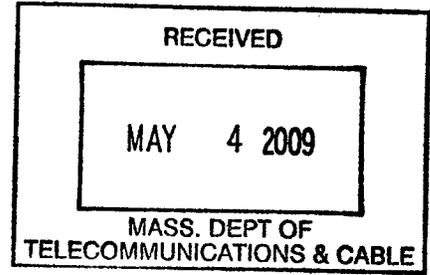
Public Access Television

WilliNet

34 Spring Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

Phone/Fax: 413 / 458-0900

~~mailto:WilliNet@williams.edu~~
www.willinet.org



April 30, 2009

Catrice C. Williams, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
Two South Station, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Williams,

The Board of Directors of WilliNet, Williamstown's PEG Cable Access center, voted unanimously to write a letter to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable expressing the Board's opposition to Verizon's request to amend Form 500 to eliminate the requirement that cable licensees report their total number of subscribers. As WilliNet's Executive Director, I join the WilliNet Board in urging the Department to deny Verizon's Petition to Amend Form 500.

This information is extremely important to WilliNet and the town of Williamstown because our funding is based on the total number of cable subscribers in Williamstown. Form 500 gives the town access to that information and, thus, a means of validating the amount of funding received from the cable company, in our case Time Warner. It is of concern to us that this amendment would apply to all cable licensees.

Williamstown will be negotiating a new contract with Time Warner in two years and it is critical for our Cable Advisory Commission and Selectmen to have the information provided on Form 500 as a basis for negotiation. This includes the requirement that cable licensees provide the number of complaints they receive, the average resolution time, and the manner of resolution for such complaints by municipality.

We urge you to deny the Verizon's Petition to amend the Cable Division's Form 500 "Cable Operator's Annual Report of Consumer Complaints."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dane, WilliNet Executive Director

cc: WilliNet Board of Directors

emailed to Catrice Williams on May 1, 2009