

July 12, 2006

Alicia Matthews
Director, Cable Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Director Matthews:

Massachusetts residents have been waiting for years for more choice for cable TV service. The time has come to give them more options.

Verizon recently filed a proposal with the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that proposes a faster municipal franchise process. Streamlining this process would bring consumers more competition, sooner. The existing process is no longer practical in the fast paced world we live in today where consumers expect the best technology for their cable TV dollars at the lowest price – and demand the option to shop around for the best offering.

In addition, Verizon's investment in Massachusetts' new advanced fiber network that brings video, internet and voice connections directly to the homes of thousands of consumers is unprecedented, and shows a commitment to the future economic well-being of the Commonwealth. As a Verizon employee, I know that if the new faster franchise process is approved, Verizon has plans to continue to expand its FiOS services to as many consumers as possible. A more efficient licensing process will encourage future investment while contributing to job growth.

Please consider the benefits of more competition in the cable market and move quickly to adopt Verizon's proposal. The consequences of stalling competition are simply too costly for consumers – and the Commonwealth.

cc: Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Janice Tatarka
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Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden

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