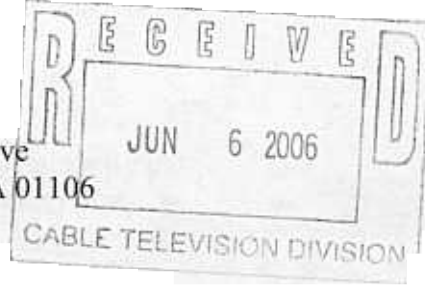


292 Pinewood Drive
Longmeadow, MA 01106
June 5, 2006



Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Dept. of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear MS Nixon,

As Chair of the Longmeadow Cable Television Advisory Committee I would like to register my opposition, in the strongest terms, to Verizon's March 16, 2006 rulemaking petition. I believe the time limits suggested by Verizon are unworkable and tie the hands of the Committee and the Town.

I have been intimately involved with the contract negotiations between the Town of Longmeadow with Comcast, its predecessor, MediaOne, and its predecessor, Continental Cablevision. I can tell you from first hand experience, it takes more than 60 days to hammer out a franchise agreement. Additionally, I see no reason to limit the areas of negotiation which Verizon wants in its petition.

Negotiations with Comcast for its latest franchise went through the informal process. Comcast was not unreasonable in its positions on the areas of contention and with hard bargaining on both sides of the table, an agreement was reached which was acceptable to both sides. I see no reason to believe that the same will not hold true for negotiation with Verizon.

In order to compete with the Comcast here in Longmeadow, Verizon must recable the Town with fiber optics cable. Since this will be done to replace outdated copper telephone wire, this recabling will fall outside of the franchise for cable television regardless of whether cable television can be transmitted over the same fiber. Similarly broadband internet access over this fiber will also fall outside of the cable franchise. In order to survive as a company, Verizon must do this. Ultimately, all landline telephone access will be VOIP and the speed of broadband internet over fiber is many many times faster than DSL which Verizon currently provides in some areas.

Currently, we have, as all municipalities have, in our cable franchise, a level playing field clause. The petition submitted by Verizon is in no way on that level playing field and I request that it be rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I trust that you will give it careful consideration when the rule making is decided.

Sincerely yours,

Steven A. Wolman

Steven A. Wolman, Chair