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The voice of working families

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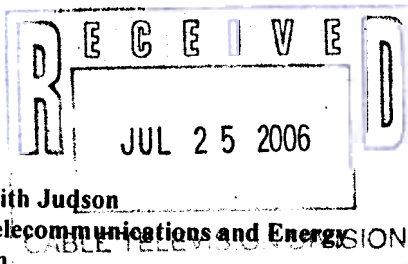
Tom Williams

## MASSACHUSETTS AFL-CIO

Today's Unions

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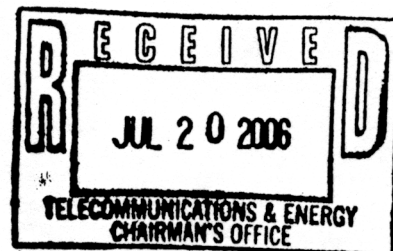
July 19, 2006

Chairwoman Judith Judson

Department of Telecommunications and Energy

One South Station

Boston, MA 02110



Dear Chairwoman Judson:

On behalf of more than 750 affiliated unions that directly represent 400,000 organized members in the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO strongly supports increased cable competition.

Consumers deserve choice. Across the country, consumers are finally beginning to see the benefit of wire-to-wire competition. As a result of this new competition, they are enjoying better pricing, improved customer service and improved quality. You have the chance to bring these enormous consumer benefits to Massachusetts now. By approving the competitive license process in CTV 06-01, you will speed the introduction of true cable competition.

The new competitive cable networks now being built by union workers in Massachusetts provide good jobs and critical infrastructure for our state. Our members are installing the latest fiber optic technology directly to homes, small businesses and downtown districts. This technology delivers the absolute best capacity, quality and reliability directly to consumers and businesses, and introduces the first real competition to the cable television market in this state.

Until now, cable television has been a virtual monopoly for incumbent cable providers. We think competition should be based on superior technology and service. It should not be based on which company pays lower wages or benefits or disregards the rights of workers.

Union-built networks can fully compete in this new marketplace, if not held back by policies that only serve to protect incumbent monopoly cable providers. Creating a time-bound process for approving competitive cable franchises will level the playing field for all players in the Massachusetts video market, create vast benefits for consumers, and support thousands of working men and women in the Commonwealth.

We urge you to approve the competitive license process proposed in CTV 06-01.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Haynes

President, Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Cc: Janice Tatarka, Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation  
Commissioner James Connelly  
Commissioner Brian Golden