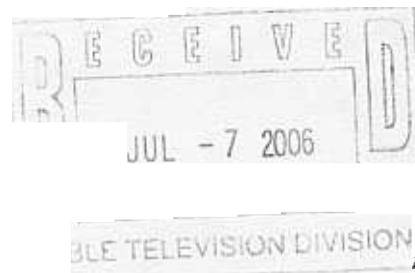




RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
of MASSACHUSETTS

The Voice of Retailing



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General Counsel

Erin M. Trabucco

July 5, 2006

Alicia Matthews

Director, Cable Division

Department of Telecommunications and Energy

One South Station

Boston, MA 02110

Dear Director Matthews:

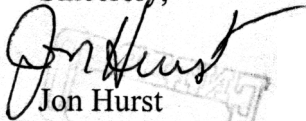
The Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM), established in 1910, is a statewide trade association of over 2,500 member companies. Our membership ranges from independent "mom and pop" retailers to larger national retail chains. In the interest of promoting fairness and equality among business in Massachusetts, we respectfully ask you to support expanding cable competition and the streamlining of the franchise process.

In an effort to bring more cable TV competition to consumers as soon as possible, Verizon recently submitted a proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that encourages a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive local cable franchise process. RAM supports changes in regulations that will not only encourage more video competition but also will advance technology deployment and investment in the communications infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

Verizon's new video, voice and Internet services are being offered over the most advanced fiber-optic network in the country. This investment is as good for the state's economy as it is for consumers, as these networks provide the capacity and quality that put high definition TV, distance learning and enhanced medical applications within the reach of more consumers. Further, high capacity networks have significant impact on our members' ability to leverage the power of technology to compete globally. This is important not only to small business owners but also to their customers.

The Division can help improve our state's competitiveness and consumer choice through your positive action on this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jon Hurst
President

Cc: Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Janice Tatarka
Chairwoman Judith Judson
Commissioner James Connelly
Commissioner W. Robert Keating
Commissioner Brian Paul Golden