



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA
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August 11, 2006

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

Dear Director Matthews:

I am writing to express my opposition to Verizon's March 16, 2006 rulemaking petition filed with the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy.

I oppose this proposal for several reasons, including the abbreviated timeframe for public hearings, and the compressed 30 day post-hearing licensing process. Local officials have expressed that if these processes were instituted they would not allow municipalities to properly review, nor negotiate the applications prior to issuance.

The current system in place for reviewing applications has proven to be effective in promoting fair business practice, and is designed to encourage a mutually advantageous partnership between the community and the cable company. The existing approach to competitive licensing works and thereby should not be amended. I thank you for your time and consideration of my opposition to this proposal, and encourage you to contact me directly with any question or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd M. Smola".

Todd M. Smola
State Representative
1st Hampden District