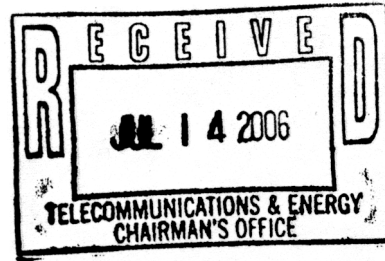




COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053



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**SENATOR THERESE MURRAY**

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PLYMOUTH AND BARNSTABLE  
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July 12, 2006

Judith Judson, Chairperson  
Department of Telecommunication and Energy  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairperson Judson,

I are writing to express my opposition to the pending petition submitted by Verizon asking for significant reduction in the local control that currently exists in the cable television franchising process. I do not support Verizon's petition to change the current process because it will reduce the ability of local officials to negotiate with video television providers for franchise agreements that best serve their communities.

In addition, granting this petition will establish a two tiered system of cable television licensing which will result in unfair competition. The existing municipal agreements with cable television franchises already establish a level of predictability and expectation from the new video television applicants. Based on this information, a new cable television franchise can enter into negotiations and make a sound business decision based on existing information.

The current cable television franchising process has been in place for many years and is essential to make these franchises accountable to the municipalities that they do business in. Municipalities across the Commonwealth oppose this petition because it would result in a reduction in their ability to serve the citizens and consumers in their cities and towns.

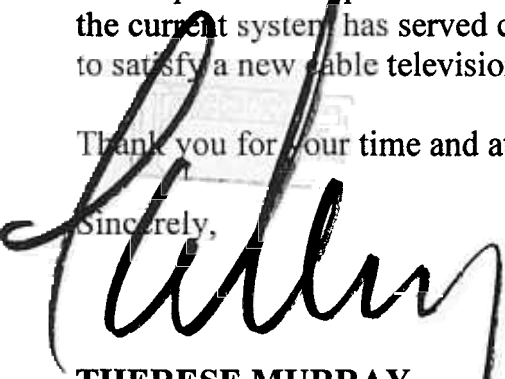
Municipalities have demonstrated that they are willing to encourage more cable television competition because it is in the best interest of their residents. Municipalities have been and are willing to negotiate a fair franchise agreement. Verizon has signed

several cable television franchise agreements and are in the process or negotiating several with other municipalities.

I do not believe that changing the current cable television franchising licensing process is in the best interest of the consumer or the municipality. The current system is one that municipalities and providers have worked under for many years and the local control of the current system has served cities, towns and consumers well. It should not be changed to satisfy a new cable television provider.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



**THERESE MURRAY**  
State Senator  
Plymouth & Barnstable District

Cc: Boards of Selectmen  
Plymouth and Barnstable District