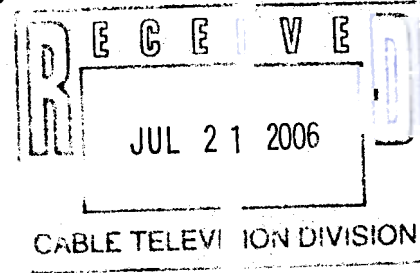




Urban League of
Eastern Massachusetts

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*



July 19, 2006

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

Dear Director Matthews:

I am writing on behalf of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts in support of a petition that Verizon has submitted to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that would establish a shorter and more predictable timeline for the competitive cable franchise process. The mission of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts is to deliver services and programs that aim to increase the economic self-reliance of African Americans and other people of color throughout our service area and to advocate for the core initiative and civil rights that critically affect their lives.

One area that we strongly believe in is equal access to technology for all. More cable TV competition will provide more affordable service to more consumers. As a result we support Verizon's efforts to transform its network to bring new technology to the homes of more consumers. We applaud the company for leading the charge to revolutionize the way we live, work, and communicate in Massachusetts. Verizon is investing hundreds of millions of dollars to deploy an advanced broadband fiber network that will carry not only voice and high-speed data, but also bring genuine cable competition and the benefits of choice (lower prices, better service, and more enhanced offerings) to Massachusetts.

I am asking that the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts be recorded in favor of CTV 06-01 to help all citizens receive the benefits of competition.

Sincerely,

Darnell Williams
President and CEO

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

