



The People's Channel
Celebrating 20 years of Public Access / Community Media

415 Main Street
Worcester, MA. 01608
508-755-1880
Fax 508-756-3152
www.wccatv.com

Docket No. CTV 06-1

March 29, 2006

**DO NOT SUPPORT ANY PETITION Or
BILL THAT WILL DIMINISH or
impede LOCAL FRANCHISE
CONTROL OR DIMINSH SUPORT
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS (P.E.G.)
CHANNELS . Verizon's petition wipes
out opportunities for municipalities to
conduct effective, prudent and inclusive
public process with regard to local
telecommunication franchising.
Please protect local franchise controls for
telecommunication and cable and future
assurances for our P.E.G. channels.
Please oppose the Verizon Petition.**

Dear **Members of the DTE**

My appeal comes after following federal legislative activity for the last year regarding telecommunication reform. **Our citizens are beginning to believe that government cares more about helping telephone companies than it does for local communities and local right of management over their own streets, local governments, freedom of speech, and the empowering tools that local public access provides through local franchise provisions.**

I represent a community media public access station, which serves over 170,000 citizens in Worcester Massachusetts, since 1986. Our public access station presents over 8,736 hours of community programming, 24/7 daily, every year and, in addition, we stream such programs over the Internet to share with the entire World Wide Web.

In Worcester we have documented thousands of citizen/community access producers who have and continue to create local television programming. Building community through electronic media, these citizens depend on this local public access channel to sharing their views and opinions among a vast diversity of other topics. I, because of my position as Executive Director of this non-profit public access station, am well aware of the sentiments of the people in Worcester Massachusetts.

Massachusetts enjoys more per capita local channels than anywhere in the country. Of the 361 cities and towns, over 275 of those towns HAVE local channels THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY DIE should this petition be granted.

Worcester is the second largest city in New England. WCCA TV 13 has provided this local and empowering community public service since 1986.


Our members and viewers have already expressed their concerns, frustrations and disappointment with their perception that our federal representatives would allow legislation that will WEAKEN PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS and jeopardize municipal franchising rights.

We have submitted hundreds of signed petitions asking Congress to support Public Access channels such as WCCA TV 13, "The People's Channel and local franchise control.

To get a hint of what is at stake. Please visit www.wccatv.com and view our real time stream of community television programs and see the positive power of the people as they discuss community concerns, legislative matters, share cultural and ethnic diversity, educational and community service issues.

Public Access across the country creates more local originated programming content than any other commercial or big media company and it is also a very common occurrence to see *all* our local, state, and federal representatives appearing on a regular basis to take advantage of this unique electronic public forum.

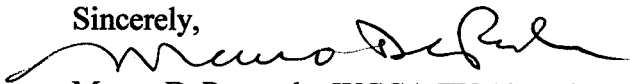
Please protect our local P.E.G. (Public, Education and Government) Channels and local franchising control. Also please work to preserve "net neutrality" pay as you go internet will only widen the digital divide. Current Local franchise environment works. Why should a multibillion-dollar company, such as Verizon, be granted special privileges over other cable companies who provide the same service? Their infrastructure is in place. Verizon is opting to strong-arm the cities and towns of Massachusetts and they want your approval to do it. The people want them to



provide the same municipal support in exchange for rights of way, as currently applied in today's franchise environment. Turn the Verizon petition down for the best interest of the people, community media, and a true democracy.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, and the citizens of Worcester, I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Mauro DePasquale, WCCA TV 13, "The People's Channel", Worcester, MA
508-755-1880