



July 15, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Walden and Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo:

We write on behalf of TVfreedom.org's 28-member coalition to express our support of S. 1789, the Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act). We view this legislation as an important step forward in preserving diversity in local television programming in communities across America.

The CAP Act, sponsored by Senator Edward Markey (MA) and Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI), would preserve public, educational, and government (PEG) community access channels on Cable TV's lifeline basic service tier, allow PEG funding to be used to pay for the cost of equipment and daily operations, and ensure cable companies transmit PEG channels without charge to local governments.

We ask that the U.S. House of Representatives make a commitment to preserving the current structure of the lifeline basic service tier, which today includes access to PEG channels and the full complement of local broadcast TV stations.

In these challenging economic times in which the budgets of local governments are shrinking and municipalities are being asked to do more with less, it is critical that lawmakers factor this into their legislative agendas as they seek to empower local governments to deliver public service television programming to their communities.

Consumers value access to local government public service channels, as well as programming delivered by educational institutions and community-based, nonprofit organizations, such as religious groups. This type of programming encourages civic engagement by bringing local issues and people together via television. For this reason, we believe that localism in cable TV programming should be preserved.

As part of its core mission, TVfreedom.org will continue to fight for the millions of Americans who subscribe to the lifeline basic service tier on cable TV systems, the overwhelming majority who may not be able to afford higher-priced cable programming packages, nor have options for affordable alternatives for service in smaller TV markets.

In closing, we hope that you will introduce or provide your support to parallel legislation in the House to help protect the long-term sustainability of PEG access channels in communities across America for the benefit of consumers and local governments.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Kenny
Director of Public Affairs
TVfreedom.org

cc: U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee members