

**\*\*Send ASAP, Vote in U.S. House Likely on Thursday, May 4\*\***

**\*\*Fax copies to your U.S. Senators to inform them when the bill comes to the Senate\*\***

**\*\*If convenient, fax copies to municipal groups, as indicated, so they can follow up\*\***

**\*\*Fax your letter—Security screening delays mailed letters\*\***

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ [your U.S. Representative]  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

*via facsimile 202-\_\_\_\_\_*

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:                      Re: COPE National Cable Franchise Act

Please vote against the Communications, Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 when it comes to the full House for a vote. This legislation will deprive many residents of cable service and will divide the Internet into a fast lane for favored sites and a slow lane for everyone else.

The City/Village/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ supports competition in cable service and would promptly grant a franchise to a new cable company. This bill will not create competition in cable for many of our residents, because it allows both current and new companies to "pick and choose" who to serve, without any obligation to serve everyone. Our major concerns with the bill include that it:

1. Eliminates local control of the cable franchise process where ALL residents get service, and sets up a national franchise system where old and new cable companies have no obligation to serve and can "cherry-pick" whom to serve.
2. Allows cable companies to discriminate on the basis of race, location, or national origin on who they serve, quality of service, rates, response times and the like. In other words, they can "redline" areas with minorities or large lots (which are expensive to serve).
3. Turns the FCC into a national right of way management authority, when it has no knowledge or experience in such matters. The rights of way only can be managed locally.
4. Does not provide sufficient local enforcement authority over the management of rights-of-way or on consumer protection matters.
5. Reduces revenues from the five percent cable franchise fee by excluding certain revenues currently included in the revenue base.
6. Limits revenues for public, educational, and governmental (PEG) channels and institutional networks for local government needs such as fire, police, and other governmental communications.
7. Changes the Internet from a fast super highway with equal access for all users, to one where some customers get the fast lane and others get the slow lane.

Local government has a long and very successful history of supporting the introduction of cable service, a successful deployment made possible in large part by the current system of local cable franchising. The Communications, Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 ignores this history and would actually result in less competition and overall choice for our community and residents. As such, please oppose the bill.

Thank you for your efforts, leadership, and consideration on those issues.

Sincerely,

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