

Date December 5, 2011

**COMMUNICATION FROM MEDIACOM REQUESTING THE MAYOR SIGN A RETRANSMISSION PETITION CONCERNING FEES PAID TO REBROADCAST LOCAL BROADCAST STATION SIGNALS AND FORWARD THE COMMUNICATIONS TO OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2011, the Mayor of the City of Des Moines received a request from Bill Peard, Senior Manager of Government Relations at Mediacom Communications (“Mediacom”) asking the Mayor to sign an online Petition and to submit the letter and information on to others who may also be interested; and

WHEREAS, the letter from Mediacom indicates that fees for such retransmission are Mediacom’s fastest growing programming cost component, having increased 100% to 300% over the last several years during negotiations, resulting in larger cable fees; and

WHEREAS, the letter indicates that Mediacom is asking the Federal Communications Commission and Members of Congress to protect senior citizens, low-income households and rural residents from practices that are rendering pay television unaffordable for many Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that the communication from Mediacom Communications be received and filed and that the Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ not be (select one) authorized to sign the petition and forward the letter to others who might be interested.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to receive, file and \_\_\_\_\_ authorize \_\_\_\_\_ not authorize be (select one) the Mayor to sign the petition and forward the communications.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey D. Lester, City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Dear [Insert Name],

I am writing to ask for your help. Mediacom has started a petition on the White House's We the People website to reform outdated broadcast television laws. The fees we pay to retransmit local broadcast stations like ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC are by far our fastest growing programming cost component. Outdated federal laws give the local broadcast stations monopoly power over network and syndicated programming within their respective market areas. Over the past few years, many broadcasters have used their monopoly powers to demand 100%, 200% and even 300% rate increases during contract negotiations. This has driven up both cable and satellite rates and forced American consumers to pay billions of dollars for "free" over-the-air television.

Contrary to public perception, cable companies are reluctant to raise video prices because when we do, we lose subscribers. Mediacom does not make more money when we raise video rates, since we remit virtually every penny of the increase on to the programmers. In fact, over the last three years, our programming cost increases were more than double our video revenue increases.

Since so many members of the programming community have been unwilling to exercise even the slightest measure of self-restraint when it comes to reigning in their spending or increasing their price demands, Mediacom has taken the fight to Washington. We believe it is time for the Federal Communications Commission and Members of Congress to protect senior citizens, low-income households and rural residents from practices that are rendering pay television unaffordable for more and more Americans.

Please consider signing our petition and sharing with others that you think might be interested. A link to the petition is below:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions#!/petition/reform-outdated-broadcast-television-laws-and-regulations/LpbJk6hc>