

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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December 19, 1983

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to H.R. 4103, the Cable Telecommunications Act of 1983. I appreciate having your informed views on this matter.

For some time, I have believed that there is a need for a federal policy concerning cable telecommunications. Currently, in the absence of such a policy, cable is being regulated by cities and towns, while being deregulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Only a congressionally approved policy would prevent the FCC from completely stripping cities of any regulatory power over cable telecommunications. The FCC's recent action to, in effect, bar cities from cable rate regulation is an indicator of its intention to move in this direction.

Furthermore, in recent court decisions, the legitimacy of city regulation in the face of the nation's anti-trust laws has come under attack. If Congress fails to pass some legislation establishing the authority of cities in this area, the courts may join the FCC in completely stripping municipalities of their powers.

The bill currently pending in the House, H.R. 4103, has some flaws. But work is underway to correct those flaws to the greatest extent possible. I support the effort behind this bill because I believe it offers the only long-term assurance that cities will retain the needed regulatory powers over cable telecommunications in the years to come.

Thank you for writing to me to express your reservations. I am sympathetic to these problems and hope we can work together in the months ahead to see some of these concerns answered in H.R. 4103.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ed Markey

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

EJM/rk

S-27

Comm. from Rep. Edward J. Markey, in acknowledgement & appreciation of resolutions adopted by the City Council Re: H.R. 4103, the Cable Telecommunications Act of 1983.

In City Council,

January 9, 1984

1/9/1984

Placed on File