



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 1992

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

WHEREAS: The attached news item from the 8/17/92 issue of the Nation's Cities Weekly regarding enthusiastic passage by both Houses of the U.S. Congress of consumer protection cable television legislation commands this Council's attention and response; and

WHEREAS: It is urgent that the legislation be moved expeditiously by the Conference Committee to assure its final passage so that, to synthesize the article's writer's words, rate regulation, customer service and damage immunity provisions will provide relief to communities and consumers from cable's often anti-competitive practices; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council goes on record as supporting this legislation (S. 12 and H.R. 4850) and urges the members of the Conference Committee to act with all due haste to provide the final text for passage; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare certified copies of this resolution and transmit same as soon as possible to each member of the Conference Committee, as identified in the referenced article and the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 14, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

An analysis: What the cable bill means for local governments

by Anna Pulido Ferrera

On July 23, the House passed sweeping NLC-supported legislation designed to protect consumers, spur competition, and lower rates for cable television. The vote passed by an overwhelming 340 to 33—a solid victory for cities and individual consumers that took the cable industry by surprise.

A companion bill in the Senate also passed by a strong margin (73-18) in January. The bills now move to Conference Committee, where Members from both Houses work to hammer out a compromise that will be sent to the White House.

President Bush has already threatened to veto re-regulatory cable legislation.

This, however, is an election year, and in an election year anything can happen. The American people have sent a clear signal to Congress, and to the President, that they do not believe that the people in Washington are doing anything meaningful for them. Citing a Consumer Federation of America estimate, Congressman Edward Markey (D-Mass.), said

Conferees named for cable

House

Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)
John Dingell (D-MI)
Dennis Eckart (D-OH)
Jack Fields (R-TX)
Ralph Hall (D-TX)
Claude Harris (D-AL)
Norman Lent (R-NY)
Edward Markey (D-MA)
Thomas Manton (D-NY)
Matthew Rinaldo (R-NJ)
W.J. Tauzin (D-LA)

Senate

John Danforth (R-MO)
Wendell Ford (D-KY)
Ernest Hollings (D-SC)
Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
Bob Packwood (R-OR)

cable monopolies overcharge consumers \$6 billion a year.

"Think of this bill tonight as a six billion dollar tax cut for the consumers of America," Markey said.

At a time when voters are suspicious of the federal government, the bill has been touted by its sponsors as the biggest consumer vote of the year. This, in addition to the closeness of the Presidential race, makes strong cable legislation an item the

White House can ill afford to veto.

But even if a veto is carried out, the strength of the Congressional vote and the political popularity of the issue threaten to break Bush's unbroken record of 31 sustained vetoes.

Cities are urged to keep the pressure on Congress to work quickly in Conference Committee, as the working days remaining in the 102nd Congressional session dwindle to less than twenty. This

bill will only pass if it is completed in Conference in a timely fashion.

In addition, the shocked cable industry has recovered, and is stepping up nationwide efforts to turn cable consumers against the bill. Full page advertisements have appeared in major metropolitan areas calling the bill a "Christmas tree" (a reference to a bill with many provisions), that will only bring higher rates to the average cable customer.

Local elected officials are urged to fight back with opinion or editorial pieces of their own, urging citizens not to be swayed by the large and extravagant ads placed by cable.

Contact your Representatives while they are at home in your districts to either thank them for their support thus far, or to urge them to get behind the legislation. Let them know that the rate regulation, customer service and damages immunity provisions will bring meaningful relief to your community from cable's anti-competitive practices. For a summary of local government's positions on key provisions in S.12 and H.R. 4850, call Anna Ferrera in the Policy and Federal Relations.

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3494307 W.F.F. 32
TO
FROM LAW OFFICES
12:40
AUG-20-1992



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

September 14, 1992

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RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare certified copies of this Resolution and transmit same as soon as possible to each member of the Conference Committee, as identified in the referenced article*, on behalf of the entire City Council.

(ATTACHMENT)

* and the entire Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.

FAX NUMBER AT CITY COUNCIL OFFICE: 349-4287
FAX NUMBER AT CITY MANAGER OFFICE: 349-4307



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 495-9094

William H. Walsh
City Councillor

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM:

DATE: Thursday, August 20, 1992

FROM: Personal Office of Councillor William H. Walsh
Athenaeum House
215 First Street
Cambridge, MA. 02142
TELEPHONE: 617 354-3366
FAX NUMBER: 617 876-9331

TO: Deputy City Clerk John Flynn
Cambridge City Hall

ATT: Mrs. Donna Lopez

Kindness of City Manager's Staff

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 3

If you do not receive the number of pages as indicated above,
please telephone immediately.

REMARKS: Councillor Walsh requests that the enclosed Council
Resolution in support of Federal legislation re:
Cable TV be included in the CONSENT AGENDA for the
Council Session of September 14, 1992.

Signature of person in Councillor Walsh's office transmitting
the document(s).

Thank you for providing attention to the
Councillor's request.

David F. Noonan

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David F. Noonan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



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Walsh

CONSENT ORDER #21

5-646

Councillor Walsh re: Support of
federal legislation re: Cable TV.

In City Council,

September 14, 1992

Order Adopted