



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Chairman
Committee on Public Service
ROOM 39, STATE HOUSE

September 10, 1997

The Hon. Daniel Bosley
The Hon. Michael Morrissey
Chairmen, Joint Committee on Government Regulations
State House, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

I write to indicate my **strong opposition to H 4887**, "An Act Authorizing the Department of Public Utilities to Issue Statewide and Regional Licenses for the Operation of Community Antenna Television Systems and Eliminating the Annual Cable License Fee," which has been filed by Acting Governor Cellucci. The Acting Governor is well intentioned but this legislation is extremely counter-productive to the efforts of most municipalities in the Commonwealth, especially Cambridge, which I represent.

The recently enacted Federal Telecommunications Act specifically authorized cities and towns to proceed in their own best interest when it comes to the licensing of cable television providers. Having the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities issue licenses will have a drastic negative impact for the Commonwealth. After all, municipalities certainly know how to best manage their own affairs.

The city of Cambridge has been the true leader in this state when it comes to licensing cable providers. Currently, the city is putting out to bid a contract for services to bring competition and license freedoms to its residents. Cities like Cambridge should not be handcuffed for being on the forefront of the technological developments of the cable industry.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY TOOMEY

Chairman

Joint Committee on Public Service

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
97 SEP 11 AM 11:41
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Communications and Reports from City
Officers #1

5-569

A communication was received from
D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting
a letter from Councillor Toomey regarding
his opposition to House Bill 4887, "An Act
Authorizing the Department of Public
Utilities to Issue Statewide and Regional
Licenses for the Operation of Community Antenna
Television Systems and Eliminating the
Annual Cabel License Fee".

In City Council September 15, 1997

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