

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 23, 1995

BY FACSIMILE
Senator John F. Kerry
Senate Commerce Committee
421 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: 1995 Telecommunications Legislation

Dear Senator Kerry:

I understand that the Senate Commerce Committee is currently considering proposed legislation, the "Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995 (the "1995 Act")". The proposed Act contains a number of provisions regarding deregulation of the telephone and cable cross-ownership restrictions that are currently codified in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984. The changes in these restrictions should result in new competition in Cambridge and a resulting choice of service providers for telephone users and cable television subscribers in the City.

I am very concerned, however, that the resulting regulatory scheme leave cable and telephone companies subject to the same conditions. If telephone companies are allowed to provide video services, comparable to those provided by cable companies, they must do so under conditions similar to those under which cable companies operate. Specifically, telephone companies providing video services should be subject to the following conditions:

(1) the right of the City to continue to manage the public rights-of-way and impose reasonable conditions on all occupants of the public way;

(2) the right of the City to receive fair and reasonable compensation from telephone companies and any other companies that provide video services to Cambridge residents;

(3) the right of the City to impose a "level playing field" on all providers of video services in the City of Cambridge;

(4) the right of the City to receive services from telephone

companies and any other video providers, such as emergency alert services, services for public schools, and public, educational and governmental (PEG) access services, etc;

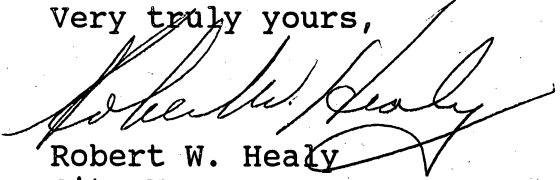
(5) the right of the City of Cambridge to fully enforce the current cable television license; and

(6) the right of the City to enter into an agreement with any company, including a telephone company, seeking to provide video services in the City.

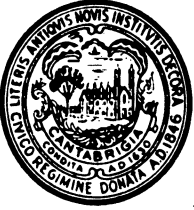
I understand that Senator Hollings has recently introduced a measure that is very similar to last year's Senate Bill 1822. I do not believe that Senator Hollings' measure adequately takes into account the concerns of the City of Cambridge that I have outlined above, and I urge you not to support this measure. While I believe that the proposed 1995 Act should be changed in the manner I have suggested, I nonetheless believe that it is the better measure to work on at the present time.

If there is any more information that the City can provide to you, please let me know. Thank you for your anticipated help on this important legislation.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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BY FACSIMILE

Senator Edward Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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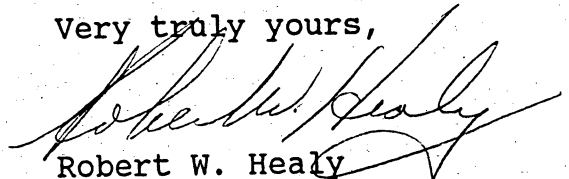
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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

February 25, 1995

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Attached for your information are letters that I sent to Senators Kerry and Kennedy concerning proposed Telecommunications legislation, the "Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995."

The proposed legislation could result in beneficial competition in telephone and video services for the City, but there are also certain aspects of the legislation that could have unfortunate consequences for the City. I have, therefore, advised the Senators of the City's concerns and asked their assistance in ensuring that the resulting legislation protects the interests of the City and its residents.

I would ask that the Council refer the matter to the Cable TV and Communications Committee.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda # 17

569

Letters sent to Senators Kerry and
Kennedy concerning proposed
Telecommunications legislation.

In City Council,

February 27, 1995

Referred to the
Cable TV and
Communications
Committee
Represent to Cable TV &
Communications Comm 3/2/95 (d)