



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

June 2, 1997

BY FACSIMILE

Thomas F. Birmingham
President of the Senate

Re: *House Bill 901*

Dear Senator Birmingham:

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 901. H. 901 is a measure that will seriously lessen the ability of the City of Cambridge to negotiate a second cable television license on terms and conditions most beneficial to the community. As you know, municipalities have been in favor of competition in the cable television field for many years. It now appears that there may be companies interested in providing such competitive cable services in Massachusetts. However, just as competition appears to be a reality, a measure like H. 901 has passed the House. H.901 may seriously jeopardize, if not destroy, that potential competition. H.901 is not in the public interest and will lessen the benefits to the citizens and the City of Cambridge. I strongly urge you not to let that happen.

Cable television licenses in Massachusetts are non-exclusive. Municipalities are free to negotiate with their incumbent cable television operators to include language on this matter if both parties see fit to do so. A number of municipalities in the Commonwealth have already done so; other municipalities have not done so. This a matter that can, and must be negotiated on the local level.

H. 901 passed the House on May 22nd. It is currently before the Senate. The City of Cambridge strenuously opposes H. 901. This is a measure that will harm the interests of the City of Cambridge and its citizens. I urge you to oppose H. 901 in any votes in committee or on the Senate floor.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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3.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 9, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached for your information a communication sent to Senate President Thomas Birmingham expressing Cambridge's opposition to House Bill 901.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #3

S-350

Relative to a communication sent to
Senate President Thomas Birmingham
expressing Cambridge's opposition to
House Bill 901.

In City Council June 9, 1997

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