

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 06-031

Urging Congress to Reject Legislation Unduly Restricting Local Governments in Managing Public Rights of Way or Granting Franchises to Video Providers, and to Approve Legislation Preserving Local Government Options in Providing Communications Services

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Local government plays an important role in:
 - encouraging competition among telecommunications and video providers;
 - achieving universal, affordable broadband Internet access;
 - promoting vibrant community media through public, educational and government (PEG) access that uses capacity and equipment provided for through video franchises; and
 - supporting community institutional networks that provide high bandwidth at low cost to schools, libraries and local governments.
- b. Local government participation in the provision of broadband communications services is necessary to effectively:
 - manage public rights of way for the benefit of the community;
 - implement local zoning policies;
 - enforce build-out requirements for video service providers in order to prevent providers from discriminating based on the wealth of local neighborhoods;
 - promote universal, affordable broadband Internet access;
 - provide local customer service enforcement; and
 - obtain fair compensation by private users for use of the public rights of way.
- c. The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) was created by Intergovernmental Agreement dated December 24, 1992, by Multnomah County and the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale and Wood Village (Jurisdictions) to advocate for and protect the public interest in the regulation and development of cable communication systems in the Jurisdictions. MHCRC monitors and helps resolve cable subscribers concerns and participates in the development and planning of future telecommunications technologies which make use of the public right of way. The MHCRC acts in an advisory capacity to the Jurisdictions in connection with any decision to grant a franchise agreement.
- d. Congress is currently considering legislation that would drastically limit the important role of local government in the formulation and implementation of telecommunications and video policy.


The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. Multnomah County opposes any legislation preventing local government from franchising video providers who use the public rights of way, paying franchise fees, and providing support for PEG access and Institutional Networks.
2. The Board urges Congress to reject legislation unduly restricting local governments in managing public rights of way or granting franchises to telecommunications and video providers, and to approve legislation preserving local government options in providing communications services.
3. The Public Affairs Office will send a copy of this Resolution to all members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED this 16th day of March 2006.



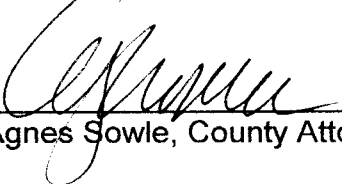
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Agnes Sowle, County Attorney