

**CITY OF EDGEWOOD RESOLUTION 2010-01
IN SUPPORT OF HR 3745,
the Community Access Preservation Act (CAP)**

WHEREAS, public, educational and government (PEG) access channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television programming across the country, and PEG access channels play a significant role in Kenton County, Boone County and the Cities of Bromley, Covington, Crestview Hills, Edgewood, Elsmere, Ft. Mitchell, Ft. Wright, Independence, Kenton Vale, Lakeside Park, Ludlow, Park Hills, Ryland Heights, Taylor Mill, and Villa Hills; and

WHEREAS, The Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK)'s PEG television studio has been producing public service television for Northern Kentucky since 1998, and televises a wealth of programming focused on our Northern Kentucky communities, which have largely been ignored by Cincinnati Broadcasters for decades; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels contribute to the democratic process by providing opportunities for candidates and others to discuss local issues on the air during election campaigns, through community election forums and debates sponsored by many different organizations, as well as airing "Get Out The Vote" PSA's; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK) and the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 produce and televise a wide range of election programs, including the only Northern Kentucky focused election night television program, and numerous election forums and debates leading up to election night for city, county, state, and national races, which have included, the 2008 – McConnell-Lunsford Debate, the 2006 – Lucas-Davis Debate at NKU, the 2004 – Clooney-Davis Debate at NKU, the 2007 – NKY Chamber Gubernatorial Primary Debates, the 2003 – Fletcher-Chandler Gubernatorial debate at NKU, and the 2003 – NKY Chamber's Fletcher-Chandler Gubernatorial Forum, some of which also aired on the C-SPAN2 national network; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK) and the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 produce and televise over 25 local government meetings every month, including city councils, fiscal courts, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky and Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission meetings, contributing to open and transparent government and keeping citizens informed about the actions taken by local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 help provide important information from local governments, promote community services and economic development, and produce numerous public affairs talk shows with officials from member cities and counties, programs with the county libraries, county parks and NKY solid waste management, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce events, and Northern Kentucky history programs, as well as numerous informational programs about initiatives such as the Census, and Link-GIS; and

WHEREAS, The Devotion Channel 17 is used by many local churches, temples, and synagogues of all faiths for significant outreach efforts and to televise their services to a wider cable television audience, making services available to the sick and shut-ins; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Kentucky University channel, Norse 18, provides distance learning classes and many other educational and cultural programs from Northern Kentucky University, including graduations, school events and arts and information; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Educable channel 20, televises hundreds of programs every year from both the Kenton County and Boone County School systems and the Covington Independent Schools that keep families and the community informed and in touch with the schools, including graduations, academic competitions, sports, talent shows, science fairs, awards ceremonies, school events and information, and other educational programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Main Event Channel 22 provides a vast amount of Northern Kentucky Sports and community event coverage, including over 30 high school basketball games and 15 high school football games

each season, many Thomas More College football and basketball games, and local swimming, diving and cross country meets, as well as numerous community fairs, festivals and events; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998 the TBNK has produced a wide array of programming that has been an asset to the entire Northern Kentucky community, and the TBNK has partnered with numerous Northern Kentucky organizations to create such programming, including many civic and social service organizations, local governments, regional government agencies, residents, churches, libraries and schools, which rely on the TBNK channels for such media coverage; and

WHEREAS Northern Kentucky residents and community organizations also use the TBNK studio facilities and the Northern Kentucky Community TV channel 21 to get their message out to the public and to produce their own programming, which provides a window through which viewers can experience the diversity of culture and entertainment, recreational activities, community events, faith based programming and artistic endeavors in their local community...creating television for the people and by the people; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve PEG channels and the much needed funding for PEG facilities and operations, and to ensure that the channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve the residents of Kenton County, Boone County and the Cities of Bromley, Covington, Crestview Hills, Edgewood, Elsmere, Ft. Mitchell, Ft. Wright, Independence, Kenton Vale, Lakeside Park, Ludlow, Park Hills, Ryland Heights, Taylor Mill, and Villa Hills; and

WHEREAS, HR 3745, the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, provides important solutions for critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities across the country by removing use restrictions on Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access fees, restoring PEG revenue streams, and ending cable operators' discriminatory treatment of PEG channels.

WHEREAS, The CAP Act would allow PEG Fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG expense, instead of restricting PEG fees to capital expenses only, and will prohibit the discriminatory practice of converting PEG Channels to smaller internet quality pictures on the television screen, as some cable operators have begun doing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The City of Edgewood supports immediate passage of HR 3745; and

The City of Edgewood calls on our Congressional delegation to take all possible actions in support of the passage of HR 3745, including but not limited to endorsing, co-sponsoring and voting for HR 3745, and to work for its rapid passage.

MOTION BY:

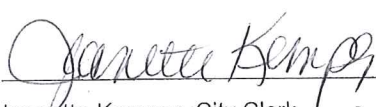
SECOND BY:

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the 1st day of March, 2010, by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Edgewood, Kentucky.



John D. Link, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeanette Kemper, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Frank Wichmann, City Attorney

John D. Link
Mayor
mayorlink@edgewoodky.gov



Roger W. Rolfes
City Administrator
rwr@edgewoodky.gov

City of Edgewood

Est. 1948

385 Dudley Road, Edgewood, Kentucky 41017-2695

Phone 859.331.5910

www.edgewoodky.gov

Fax 859.331.5912

March 4, 2010

Congressman Geoff Davis (R)
Fort Mitchell District Office
277 Buttermilk Pike
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017

Dear Congressman Davis:

I am writing to urge you to support, and if possible, co-sponsor the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, HR 3745, and to work for its rapid passage. The CAP Act is very important to help preserve Northern Kentucky's Local Community TV channels (known as PEG Access Channels) and the much needed funding for PEG cable TV facilities and operations.

These channels are virtually the only real local television programming that still exists – particularly when it comes to Northern Kentucky coverage. This is public service programming that informs voters about Northern Kentucky issues and covers Northern Kentucky election races and debates. Our Northern Kentucky PEG channels also provide programming from our schools, including popular high school football and basketball game coverage.

There have been changes to federal and state regulations regarding PEG Access Channels and funding over the years, since our city's last cable TV franchise, that will soon start to take effect, and result in a substantial loss of fees that support PEG Studios like ours. This will cause a significant cut back in PEG services, if the situation is not rectified.

The CAP Act removes use restrictions on Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access fees, restores PEG revenue streams, and ends cable operators' discriminatory treatment of PEG channels. Specifically, this bill would allow PEG Fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG expense, instead of restricting PEG fees to capital expenses only. It does no good to be able to buy television cameras, but not be able to pay someone to operate them.

The Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK) television studio has been producing public service television for Northern Kentucky since 1998, and televises a wealth of programming focused on our Northern Kentucky communities, which have been largely ignored by Cincinnati Broadcasters for decades.

The CAP Act is good for Kentucky citizens. I hope we can count on your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Rolfes".

Roger W. Rolfes
City Administrator

John D. Link
Mayor
mayorlink@edgewoodky.gov



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March 4, 2010

Senator Mitch McConnell (R)
District Office
1885 Dixie Highway, Suite 345
Fort Wright, KY 41011

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am writing you about the Community Access Preservation Act, HR 3745. We ask that you take steps to ensure that a companion bill is introduced in the Senate, and is promptly acted upon. The CAP Act is very important to help preserve Northern Kentucky's Local Community TV channels (known as PEG Access Channels) and the much needed funding for PEG cable TV facilities and operations.

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City Administrator

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March 4, 2010

Senator Jim Bunning (R)
District Office
1717 Dixie Highway, Suite 220
Ft. Wright, KY 41011

Dear Senator Bunning:

I am writing you about the Community Access Preservation Act, HR 3745. We ask that you take steps to ensure that a companion bill is introduced in the Senate, and is promptly acted upon. The CAP Act is very important to help preserve Northern Kentucky's Local Community TV channels (known as PEG Access Channels) and the much needed funding for PEG cable TV facilities and operations.

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City Administrator