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MAGAZINE

VIRGINIA TOWN & CITY

August 22, 2011

Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

In re: Community Access Preservation Act
HR 1746

Dear Senator Warner:

Attached, please find the resolution passed by the executive committee of the Virginia Municipal League in support of HR 1746, the Community Access Preservation Act.

VML is of the position that access of all communities to public, educational and government channels on cable TV is vitally important in today's world. Therefore, we ask your support of the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Amyx,
Executive Director

Cc: Bunnie Riedel, executive director, American Community Television
Carolyn Coleman, director of federal relations, National League of Cities

P.O. Box 12164
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23241

13 EAST FRANKLIN STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

804/649-8471
FAX 804/343-3758
e-mail@vml.org
www.vml.org

RESOLUTION OF THE OF THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT H.R. 1746, THE COMMUNITY ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT, WHICH ADDRESSES CRITICAL AND IMMEDIATE THREATS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNELS.

WHEREAS, public, educational and government (PEG) access channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television programming across the country and PEG channels play a significant role for Virginia municipalities and offer a unique and valuable resource for local information and discourse for the residents of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels televise local government meetings, including city and town council, planning commission, school board meetings and other public meetings to inform the public about actions taken by their local governments; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels are also utilized to communicate with citizens on municipal events and services and also provide advisories and preparation directions to residents for emergency purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly specifically recognized the importance of maintaining PEG channels for the citizens of Virginia, and enacted provisions to perpetuate PEG channels and local authority to maintain and operate them with legislation enacted in 2006 (Va. Code § 15.2-2108.1:1 *et seq.*)

WHEREAS, PEG channels provide a window through which residents can view the diversity of cultures, educational information, recreational activities and artistic endeavors in their local community; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels reflect the unique identity of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve PEG channels and funding for PEG channels, and to ensure that the channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve the residents of Virginia municipalities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1746, the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, addresses critical and immediate threats to PEG; and

WHEREAS, the CAP Act provides important solutions for critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities across the country by removing use restrictions on PEG access fees, restoring PEG revenue streams, and ending cable operators' discriminatory treatment of PEG channels; and


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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE:

That the Virginia Municipal League urges members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation to take all actions in support of the immediate passage of H.R. 1746, including, but not limited to endorsing, co-sponsoring and voting for H.R. 1746.

That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Virginia Congressional Delegation and the National League of Cities.

Adopted by the Virginia Municipal League this 8th day of July, 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Michael Amyx", written over a horizontal line.

R. Michael Amyx, Executive Director
Virginia Municipal League