

COUNTY OF SONOMA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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December 15, 2011

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to ask for your support of the Community Access Preservation Act (HR 1746) to preserve and protect Public, Educational and Government (PEG) community access television stations. HR 1746 is co-sponsored by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Congressman Steven LaTourette (R-OH).

We support PEG access television as it plays a critical role in providing the public information in Sonoma County. These local channels are the voice of the community and an important voice for democratic media, especially in an era of increased media consolidation.

The Cap Act (HR 1746) will address some detrimental and critical issues facing local PEG channels; it will:

- Eliminate the distinction between "capital" and "operational" expenses when it comes to using existing PEG support fees. Right now, PEG support fees that are being collected can only be used for "capital" expenses. This distinction is unnecessary and wasteful of the subscriber's money.
- Restore a community's ability to collect PEG support. Many states passed statewide franchising laws that either eliminated PEG support or will eliminate PEG support by 2012. That means that hundreds of these channels will be eliminated in the next year.
- Allow a community that does not have a PEG channel to get one if they so choose.
- Prevent video providers from charging expensive channel transmission fees to local communities.

We urge you to join us in support of these local channels by supporting HR 1746. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

EFREN CARRILLO,
Chair and Fifth District Supervisor
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Congressman Mike Thompson
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey
National Association of Counties
Paul Schlesinger