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July 7, 2011

The Honorable Mike Honda
U.S. House of Representatives
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Community Access Preservation Act (HR 1746)

Dear Representative Honda:

I am writing on behalf of the League of California Cities (League), which represents California's 482 cities, to request 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).

California's cities have a long history of supporting PEG access television. 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. Specifically the bill 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.

These modifications to PEG regulation are greatly needed and we urge you to join us in support of these local channels by cosponsoring HR 1746. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to call me at (916) 658-8240, or our Washington representatives, Eve M. O'Toole and Dustin McDonald at (202) 419-2505 and (202) 419-2511 respectively if you have any questions or would like additional information about the League's position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris McKenzie".

Christopher McKenzie
Executive Director

Cc: John Rocco, President, American Community Television