

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

DATE: January 11, 2006
4:30 PM

PLACE: Council Chambers
Champaign, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CHAMPAIGN Rick Atterberry Giraldo Rosales	URBANA Barb Gladney Peter Resnick Durl Kruse
	PARKLAND	U of I

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom McDonnell, Karen Walker, Stan Yagi , Brian Silverman

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Foster - City of Urbana
Jeff Hamilton - City of Champaign
Jim Getz – City of Urbana

1-18-2006 Agenda Set

The Commission accepts the Clerk’s draft agenda as presented.

Federal Cable Franchising Legislation

Peter introduced the topic as important information for the Commission to keep an eye on.

1. BITS – 9/15/2005 version

Two versions:

- This one is preferred by NATOA as it preserves rights of local governments.
- Leaves video services (cable TV) under local franchising control.
- Leaves some local control over broadband video services.
- Requires e-911 for VOIP.
- Limits all control of Internet services.
- Requires BITS provides to register with federal and state authorities.
- Exempts some cellular service providers, but not all.

2. BITS II – 11/30/2005 version

- Franchising authority in hands of Federal government.
- Limits franchise fees to subscriber revenues only.
- Violations processed by FCC, not local governments.
- 4-year sunset clause on all current cable franchising rules.
- Non-cable providers may not have to provide PEG access.
 - Rick – all draft legislation would allow telcos to skip the local franchising step.
 - Peter – It's likely cable companies will want the same concessions and want to avoid franchising process in the future.
 - Jim Getz – Urbana Council has passed Resolution opposing all the legislation. Letters have been sent by both Cities to our federal representatives/senators voicing this opposition.

3. The Ensign Bill

- Large re-write of portions of the Communications Act.
- Video service providers can't be required to franchise locally.
- Video service providers can redline areas to provide service too.
- 4 PEG channel limit.
- Right-of-way disputes handled by FCC – not locally.
 - Jim Getz – This is a big departure from strong history of local control over ROW.
 - Peter – Doesn't apply to any services not using ROW, limits government bodies from setting up Internet services, allows ISPs to block almost anything that hurts their ability to control "quality of service."

4. DeMint Bill

- Regulates any type of "electronic communications network."
- Most broad-reaching bill.
- No local franchising control.
- Feds decide what universal service is.
 - Peter – this is the worst bill.
 - Barbara – What should the Commission do?
 - Jim Getz – Summarize the bills and create bullet points of their impact for the Council's. Start lobbying efforts/grassroots campaign that influences the members of the Senate/House Committees. Commission should work with Councils to let people know. Letters to the editors, editorials, share the information with the public and why the public should care. Contact state representatives, as some bills step on State laws/authority.
 - Barbara – Commissioners should develop strategy to educate the public.

- Rick – “What’s in it for me” talking points need to be shared. Not addressed by legislation: customer service standards, map requirements, emergency overrides, etc.
- Peter – Tell public what they’d be losing (if our franchise goes away). Bills only benefit the telcos, not the public.

Peter – Does Commission have resources to see where things are in the Senate?

Rick – NATOA is watching and advising us of these. Check with Illinois Municipal League (IML).

Jim – Will ask if home rule attorneys would consider putting on their next agenda. Asked for Bill bullet points and recommendations to be shared with him by the Commission.

Rick – Invited public to visit [www. NATOA.org](http://www.NATOA.org) to keep up on the bills.

Public Access Study Committee Report

Rick – Another chance to ask the Public Access Committee questions about its report.

Barbara has drafted a Resolution for Commission to accept the PAC report and adopt their recommendations. Will consider the Resolution next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hamilton
City of Champaign