

RESOLUTION NO. 8990-R33

A RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE REGULATION OF CABLE TELEVISION

WHEREAS, The Cable Communications Act of 1984 (the "Act") restricted state and local governments' abilities to regulate the cable television industry directly; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Act, concentrations of ownership amounting to monopolies have increased among cable operations even though the Act was intended to "promote competition" in cable communications; and

WHEREAS, municipalities throughout the nation, including the City of Urbana, Illinois (the "City") have been subjected to substantial rate increases, service reductions, and programming changes that do not reflect consumers' needs or the original intentions of their franchise agreements; and

WHEREAS, more than half the households in the City subscribe to cable, and cable television is increasingly becoming the main means of access to information; and

WHEREAS, cable television is rapidly being priced beyond the reach of lower income people, including the elderly; and

WHEREAS, existing law provides the City and other franchising authorities no authority to control or question the imposition of exorbitant rates upon citizens whose rights of way have been placed at the cable companies disposal by the grant of franchises; and

WHEREAS, the City favors policies to increase local governments' cable regulatory authority and favors more competition in the provision of cable television service to customers; and

WHEREAS, legislation now pending in Congress seeks comprehensive changes to the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

1. The City Council of the City declares its support for the restoration of local regulatory authority over cable television systems.

2. The Congress of the United States should rewrite the Act, with particular focus on reregulation of subscriber rates, allowance of utility companies' provision of cable service agreements that respect local government authority, and other aspects of the Act that directly impact local regulation and consumers.

3. The City Council of the City urges Congressional action for appropriate federal legislation to restore local authority over cable systems, to eliminate the barriers to competition, and to rectify other aspects of the Act that work to disfavor cable consumers.

1990. PASSED by the City Council this 16th day of April

Ruth S. Brookens
Ruth S. Brookens, City Clerk

1990. APPROVED by the Mayor this 23rd day of April

Jeffrey T. Markland
Jeffrey T. Markland, Mayor