

"No Localism, No Merger!"

<http://accesshumboldt.net/site/no-localism-no-merger-message-fcc>

Access Humboldt tells FCC to support media Localism in Comcast merger deal  
Public interest groups and consumer advocates raising concerns about broadband media consolidation

Access Humboldt joined with more than sixty public interest groups across the nation in calling on the FCC to place strict conditions on any merger deal that would allow the nation's largest cable system operator Comcast to acquire the second largest operator Time Warner Cable.

Media releases about the joint letter from Consumers Union:

<http://consumersunion.org/news/65-groups-call-on-the-fcc-to-stop-the-com...>

[http://hearusnow.org/press\\_release/65-groups-call-on-the-fcc-to-stop-the...](http://hearusnow.org/press_release/65-groups-call-on-the-fcc-to-stop-the...)

Access Humboldt's executive director Sean McLaughlin said, "although Comcast does not operate in Humboldt County, we recognize that media consolidation on this scale reduces competition, threatens media localism and harms information diversity. With absentee owners controlling essential local infrastructure, including broadband and media access, we need to secure media diversity and localism in the marketplace of ideas."

Access Humboldt also filed comments supporting Public, Education and Government access (PEG) and the role of local franchise authorities. Those comments are available online, along with comments filed by the Alliance for Community Media and the Alliance for Communications Democracy calling on the FCC to impose five PEG Conditions on the deal:

1. As a condition to any approval of the transactions, Comcast, Charter and SpinCo should be required to make all PEG channels on all of its cable systems universally available on the basic service tier, in the same format as local broadcast channels, unless the local government specifically agrees otherwise
2. As a condition to a consent to the transfers, the Commission should protect PEG channel positions.
3. As a condition to any consent to the transfers, the Commission should prohibit discrimination against PEG channels, and ensure that PEG channels will have the same features and functionality, and the same signal quality, as that provided to local broadcasters' primary channels.
4. As a condition to any consent to the transfers, the Commission should require that all PEG programming is easily accessed on menus and easily and non-discriminatorily accessible on all the Applicants' platforms.
5. As a condition to consent to the transfers, the Commission should require that PEG channels have the ability to be distributed on HD tiers.

For more information contact Access Humboldt's executive director Sean McLaughlin, e: [sean@accesshumboldt.net](mailto:sean@accesshumboldt.net)

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