

A Few Talking Points

- **Everyone wants competition**

Of the communities targeted by Verizon for franchising in Massachusetts, over 40 franchises have successfully been completed through local, municipal franchising. Clearly, Verizon is not having a problem obtaining new licenses. If Verizon would meet the contractual obligations of incumbent cable providers, most communities would gladly expedite a competitive license. In fact, Verizon has been unable to build out the systems for which licenses it has already received franchises.

- **This bill might nullify EXISTING cable franchises**

A switch to state franchising, in which Verizon would not be required to meet the same conditions of the incumbent cable operators, might result in the suspension of the hundreds of existing local licenses, effectively removing the many benefits currently utilized by citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

- **Local control over the public rights of way should be maintained**

Each community should benefit from the commercial use of its rights of way, through franchises that meet the particular cable related needs and interests of that community, including:

- Build-out requirements (to prevent red-lining, “cherry picking”)
- PEG access operating and capital grants
- Institutional networks
- Emergency override capability
- Consumer protection/customer service standards

- **Verizon is seeking to avoid build out requirements that ensure that everyone in the community has access to services**

Verizon wants to cherry pick which communities and neighborhoods it serves – bypassing those that may not be as financially lucrative.