



City of Cleveland
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

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April 5, 2007

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor
State of Ohio
Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of City of Cleveland Resolution No. 548-07 and a copy of the City's letter to Senators Schuler and Jacobson (including a document detailing the City's opposition to S.B. 117). The City of Cleveland carefully reviewed the proposed legislation and concluded that S.B. 117 is extremely damaging to the City of Cleveland. On behalf of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, we urge the Ohio Senate to oppose S.B. 117 and urge you, as Governor, to veto this legislation if passed as introduced.

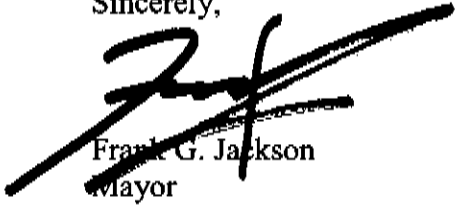
Ohio S.B. 117 purports to maintain many of the public benefits associated with the historic ability of the City of Cleveland and other local franchise authorities to negotiate with cable television providers for appropriate community investments in return for the operator's use of the public rights-of-way within a community — but in reality, it strips away virtually all such public benefits.

While the City of Cleveland would extend a warm welcome to a wireline competitor in the provision of cable television/video service, there is no rational basis for the Ohio Legislature to grant cable television/video providers special rights at the expense of the residents of the City of Cleveland and the State of Ohio.

Passage of S.B. 117 will cut the City of Cleveland's franchise fees paid by cable operators and video service providers by 10-12% or more and will result in an inequitable balance of power between local government interests, incumbent cable operators and new providers of competitive video service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Councilmember Zone directly or your legislative director may contact Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government Affairs, at 216.664.3544 or via email at vmccall@city.cleveland.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Frank G. Jackson
Mayor



Matt Zone, Councilmember &
Chair, Public Utilities Committee

Attachments:

cc: The Honorable Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor, State of Ohio
John Haseley, Chief of Staff, State of Ohio
The Honorable William Harris, President, Ohio State Senate
All Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee
All Members of the Cuyahoga County Senate Delegation
Cuyahoga County Mayors & City Managers Association
All Members of Cleveland City Council
The Honorable Martin J. Sweeney, President, Cleveland City Council
Ken Silliman, Chief of Staff, City of Cleveland
Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government Affairs, City of Cleveland