



**RESOLUTION 03-21-2024**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION TO MODERNIZE THE FUNDING STRUCTURE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PUBLIC, EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) PROGRAMMING.**

**WHEREAS**, the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (dba QCTV) is authorized by its four member cities (Andover, Anoka, Champlin, Ramsey) to negotiate and manage the cable franchise agreements for the four cities, and to provide local community (PEG) public, educational, and governmental programming:

**WHEREAS**, QCTV provides essential local coverage of community events and issues, nonprofits and charities, high school, community, and regional sports, academic programs, graduation ceremonies, businesses, chambers of commerce and tourism, school boards, city, county and state government meetings, candidate forums and election information, transportation and public infrastructure, local history, public health and education, religious services, music, arts, festivals, and other uniquely local programs that broadcast stations typically do not cover;

**WHEREAS**, QCTV is funded through franchise fee and PEG fee support authorized by the federal Cable Act and negotiated in the cable franchise agreements with local cable providers, which are limited to only the revenues on traditional cable tv and not on the revenue of digital video service providers (via streaming on the internet);

**WHEREAS**, consumer preference for streaming digital video has changed the marketplace, resulting in a steady decline of traditional cable tv subscribers and the franchise/PEG fees that support QCTV and other community programming services across the state;

**WHEREAS**, QCTV distributes essential local community information on multiple platforms including cable tv, online streaming, social and digital media, to provide access to all residents regardless of their socio/economic/technology resources; and

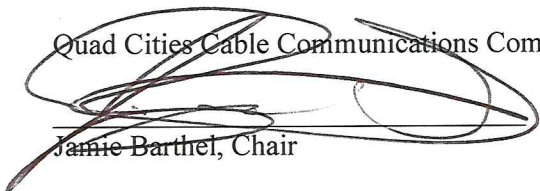
**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) and the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) support legislation to Modernize the Funding Structure for Local Community PEG Programming.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Quad Cities Cable Commission calls on the Minnesota Legislature to pass legislation in the 2024 legislative session to Modernize the Funding Structure for Local Community PEG Programming to offset the declining cable tv franchise and PEG fees with similar funding from digital video service providers.

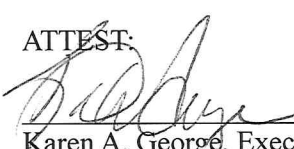
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Quad Cities Cable Commission requests its representatives for Districts 31A, 31B, 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, and senators for Districts 31, 34 35, to cosponsor and support the passage of such legislation.

Passed and adopted this 21 day of March, 2024.

Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission

  
Jamie Barthel, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Karen A. George, Executive Director



763.427.1411

[www.qctv.org](http://www.qctv.org)

12254 Ensign Ave. N  
Champlin, MN 55316

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the member cities of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (Andover, Anoka, Champlin, Ramsey) I am writing in support of The Equal Access to Broadband Act HF 4182/SF 4262 (please see the attached Resolution passed by the commission.)

The Equal Access to Broadband Act will allow this commission, and cities across the state, to negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers, just as these local governments have done with cable tv providers. Minnesota communities have a 44-year successful history of franchising cable TV providers in the public right-of-way. The four member cities of this commission banded together in 1981 to form QCTV through a collaboration as they knew they could accomplish more together than independently. This bill will modernize legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our residents, businesses, schools and non-profits.

***Local franchising is a proven way to ensure complete buildout provisions, no redlining or cherry picking, faster upload and download speeds, non-compliance provisions, local oversight of commercial users in streets and on public assets, and local customer service resolution.***

In addition, HF 4182/SF4262 will modernize the funding structure of local Community Television stations like QCTV. Community television stations across the state rely on cable TV franchise fees and PEG fees to support coverage of government meetings, candidate and election programming, sports, news, business and chamber of commerce, education and health, community events and festivals, music, arts, nonprofits that allow residents to engage in our community. Franchising broadband will level the playing field and provide ongoing funding to continue serving the needs of our community.

Please let us know if you need further information. Thank you for your work on behalf of our residents and our community!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen A. George', is written in a cursive style.

Karen A. George  
Executive Director  
Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (QCTV)