

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

## RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF LOCAL CONTROL OF CABLE FRANCHISING AND OPPOSITION TO MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 1157 AND HOUSE BILL 5895

**WHEREAS**, AT&T and Verizon have been actively advocating across the country that local cable franchise agreements be eliminated, and

**WHEREAS**, AT&T is blaming Michigan communities as the reason they cannot enter into the cable/video business, while local communities and local residents including Bloomfield Township want more cable competition and would quickly allow AT&T into their community, AT&T has refused to negotiate a franchise with any city, village, or township, and

**WHEREAS**, legislation introduced in the Michigan Legislature, House Bill 5895 and Senate Bill 1157 would:

- Eliminate local cable franchising and require Secretary of State to grant a statewide franchise.
- Allow any cable or video provider to stop serving any area in a city, village, or townships based on out-of-state corporate economic decisions. Current law guarantees service to all local residents. Cable and phone companies could turn off service to neighborhoods because they are not profitable, basically 'cherry-picking' and 'redlining' neighborhoods, and

**WHEREAS**, local government participation in the cable franchising process ensures build-out requirements so that all residents irrespective of age, race, education, or income level, receive the same service, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Charter Township of Bloomfield opposes Senate Bill 1157 and House Bill 5895 and urges our state legislators to oppose the bills.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees hereby affirms its support for the current local cable franchise agreement system and urges federal and state policymakers to only support legislation that:

1. Maintains local control of the cable franchise process;
2. Ensures build-out requirements so that providers cannot "cherry-pick" customers;
3. Preserves local governments' ability to manage the public rights-of-way;
4. Ensures no reduction in direct revenues and protects PEG revenues as well as the Township's current level of services provided to the Township's residents; and
5. Preserves the Michigan Metro Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our state legislators in Lansing, our Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C., Governor Granholm and the Michigan Township Association.

ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006