

1002 Willow Drive, Apt. 40  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

November 29, 2002

Time Warner Cable  
5201 Raleigh Road  
Suite B  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

and

Town of Chapel Hill ✓  
FCC ID NC 0234  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RE: INCREASE IN FEES FOR BASIC LOCAL (ANTENNA) SERVICE

In 1993 or 1994 there was much concern in Chapel Hill over pending increases in cable rates. At the time, some citizens filed their concerns with the Federal Communications Commission. I was one of these citizens.

My concern was for the then 6% of the population who request basic service. At one time those who desired only local TV (specifically, PBS plus one NBC, one ABC, one CBS, and FOX if that is considered local TV) could obtain these with a house aerial antenna or a rabbit ears antenna added inside the house to the TV. Cable service was not required. However in Chapel Hill, because of its topography, many apartment complexes and condos cannot obtain local-only TV with these devices. In order to obtain local-only TV, they must subscribe to basic cable.

Sometime in 1994, I believe, the basic cable rate was reduced to \$7.92 including fees. Between February of 1995 and December of 1998 it was gradually increased to over \$9.50. In January of 1999, it again fell back to just under \$8.00, increasing again in December of 1999, again in January of 2000 to \$9.41, in January of 2001 to \$10.71, in January of 2002 to \$11.35, and today I received word that the increase for basic service will go to \$11.00 + fees \$1.26 or \$12.26 in January of 2003. There is a statement that Time Warner has "ensured that our new prices for regulated levels of service are in compliance with Federal Communications Commission Rules."

As a senior citizen, I am distressed that no antennae service is provided for those on limited income who need local-only TV (namely, the stations mentioned above in paragraph 2). I know that those requiring this narrower range of basic service only are a small minority in Chapel Hill. We do not require the additional programs or developing technology for which the additional fees are being added. For us, the basic fee has gone from \$7.92 to \$12.26 in 8 years—an increase of 63%. On behalf of those who means require no more than local-only TV, and of those who also cannot use local antennae, I make a plea that consideration be given to reduce this fee.

Yours sincerely,



Darrah Degnan