

PASSED

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO. ) IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING A LETTER TO  
06-6-7-1 ) COMCAST CABLE REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
 ) FRANCHISE RENEWAL UNDER FEDERAL 626  
 ) GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2005, Comcast Cable, also known as Comcast of Oregon II, inc., sent a letter to Lane County requesting renewal of their franchise, and

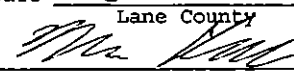
WHEREAS, a requirement of the prescribed 626 franchise renewal process is to respond to such a request within six months, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is interested in negotiating a franchise renewal, NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

ORDERED that the County administrator is authorized to sign a letter in substantial conformance with the draft letter attached to this agenda packet.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Dwyer, Chair  
LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Date 5-31-06  
Lane County  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

December 15, 2005  
CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Peter Thurston  
Community/Economic Development Coordinator  
Lane Co. Administration, Public Services Bldg.  
125 East Eighth Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401

Subject: FRANCHISE RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Thurston:

We at Comcast appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens of Lane County. It is our credo that we will be the company to look to first for the communications products and services that connect people to what's important in their lives. In living our credo, we look forward to providing broadband services to our customers in Lane County for many years to come. Therefore, we are taking this step to ensure the renewal of our franchise with Lane County.

The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("the 1984 Cable Act") encourages franchisors and cable operators to reach renewal agreements at any time through an informal process of discussion. However, Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Act also provides for commencement of a formal renewal procedure. To preserve our statutory rights to this formal procedure, this letter is our official notice to you invoking that provision.

This letter is not intended to introduce a new formality nor is that the intention of the 1984 Cable Act. We prefer to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement through informal negotiations, thus making many of the 1984 Cable Act's formal procedures unnecessary, and once again are optimistic that even the informal process contemplated under the Act will prove unnecessary based upon the franchise extension process already pending before the MPC.

Additionally, this letter is not intended to waive, supersede or impair in any way Comcast's pending extension request currently before each of the respective local franchise authorities, Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County. We fully anticipate that at the conclusion of the MPC's review of the franchise agreements pursuant to Section 16(2)(f) that an extension will be granted for an additional ten-year term. However, as the review has yet to be completed, we are sending this letter to preserve Comcast's rights under Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Act.

We at Comcast look to continuing a relationship that, we believe, benefits both the community and the residents of Lane County. As always, should you have any questions relative to franchise matters including the matters set forth in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Robert L. Schroeter  
Manager, Government Affairs

cc: Brad Dusto, Mountain Division President  
Deborah Luppold, Mountain Division Vice President of Government  
Affairs  
Sheila Willard, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

Robert (Bob) Schroeter  
Manager, Government Affairs  
Comcast - Willamette Valley Systems  
2897 Chad Drive  
Eugene, OR 97408  
Voice 541.431.3518  
Fax 541.431.3655

DRAFT LETTER  
June 7, 2006

Robert Schroeter, Manager  
Government Affairs  
Comcast – Willamette Valley System  
2897 Chad Drive  
Eugene, Or 97408

Dear Mr. Schroeter:

Thank you for your letter dated December 15, 2005 indicating Comcast's interest in renewal of the cable franchise agreement serving the unincorporated areas of Lane County adjacent to the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area, and Junction City. As you requested, Lane County hereby commences franchise renewal ascertainment processes pursuant to 47 USC Section 546 (a)(1) (section 626).

Lane County is also interested in following an informal franchise renewal process in the hope we can reach mutually acceptable terms of a franchise renewal.

In order to start this informal franchise renewal process with a common schedule and information base, I suggest Comcast meet with County staff to discuss the time line, clarification of definitions, service areas, current level of service, Comcast plans for system improvements, and other subjects we believe are important to finalizing franchise renewal as expeditiously as possible. Please confirm your availability to Michael McKenzie-Bahr, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, 682-4118.

As a part of this process, the Board of County Commissioners may elect to hold one or more public hearing(s), the first as early as June 2006 to assist them in determining quality of service and levels of community need for future cable television services.

I look forward to what we hope will be a mutually beneficial and efficient franchise renewal process.

Sincerely,

William Van Vactor  
County Administrator