

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY MEDIA

Strong media centers. Strong communities.

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January 5, 2022

Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of Wisconsin Community Media, we would like to thank you for your co-sponsorship of the Protecting Community Television Act (S 3361/HR 6219). The bill will help ensure that support for community media operations does not continue to erode here in the state.


As you well know, Wisconsin law is already stacked against Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access TV. Clarifying that cable operator in-kind support and cable TV franchise fee limits are two different things is very important.

Wisconsin Community Media is currently drafting state legislation to roll back some of the worst aspects of 2007 Wisconsin Act 42, which banned dedicated support for PEG media centers and took away all but minimal in-kind support. Our 52 media center members are dedicated to keeping local government and school districts transparent and bringing attention to the issues, interests, and needs of our residents. This state bill will help. Among other things, it asks legislators to end the second-class treatment of PEG channels by requiring operators to carry local programming in an HD-type format if a media center produces programming in that format (all our members do).

We hope that passage of the Protecting Community Television Act will occur soon. Please let us know if we can provide more information about our work or the need for this bill.

Thank you for always being at the forefront of protecting local communications. This kind of leadership is needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,



Mary Cardona
Executive Director
Wisconsin Community Media

cc: Alliance for Community Media