



The Michigan Chapter  
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

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**Michigan NATOA FILES COMMENTS OPPOSING FCC PROPOSAL**  
Coalition Opposes Threat to Franchise Fees

**Okemos, MI** – In September, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order](#) that would significantly reduce cable franchise fee revenue for local governments and impact other cable franchise obligations, in particular PEG channels.

“The FCC proposal puts critical funding at risk for public, educational and governmental (PEG) stations as well as connections from those stations to schools and other public buildings,” stated Deborah Guthrie, Michigan NATOA Chapter President, “MINATOA member communities’ constituents rely on these channels to watch local government meetings, hyper local news and community programming.”

Yesterday, Michigan NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors), along with several other communities and entities including MML, MTA, PROTEC, Meridian Township and Bloomfield Hills as part of a coalition of LFAs (Local Franchise Authorities) across the country, filed comments opposing the FCC’s proposed rule. The proposed rules would also preempt local authority over the non-cable services provided by cable companies.

“NATOA members are very concerned about the potential impact of the proposed rules and are making their voices heard at the FCC through the numerous comments filed in opposition to the proposals,” stated Nancy Werner, NATOA General Counsel, “Filing comments with the FCC will demonstrate that the proposed rules are unnecessary, unreasonable and will have a significant, negative impact on local governments, taxpayers and subscribers. We hope this will result in the FCC opting not to move forward with the proposed rules.”

A copy of the comments filed by the coalition of LFAs can be found here <http://bit.ly/LFAComments>

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