



AB 367

CLIFFORD OTTE

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MEMO

October 16, 1997

TO: Members,
Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs

FROM: Representative Clifford Otte, Chair

RE: October 23 Executive Session

Please find attached amendments for the executive session on October 23, 1997. I anticipate there may be some additional materials, but I wanted to get these to you as soon as possible in order to give you more time to review them. If you have any questions about the amendments, please feel free to contact our committee clerk, Dan Young.

The attached amendments are:

LRBa0808/1, AA to Assembly 157

LRBs0211/1, ASA to Assembly Bill 367

LRBa0744/1, AA to LRBs0211/1, ASA to AB 367

LRBs0173/9, ASA to Assembly Bill 169

Our last hearing included LRBs0173/4, an earlier ASA to AB 169. You received a summary of that sub, which was prepared by the DATCP. I have asked them to provide an updated summary. Meanwhile, I am attaching a brief summary of changes to the bill. These are an effort to address concerns raised at, or since, our last hearing.

I would appreciate it if you would contact Dan, at my office, if you have any concerns about LRBs0173/9, ASA to Assembly Bill 169. Thank you.

AB 367



State Representative Spencer Black

State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-7521

TO: All Legislators

FR: Representative Spencer Black

DT: April 25, 1997

RE: Cable Television Regulations, LRB 1241

I will soon be introducing legislation to regulate late fees that Cable TV companies can charge consumers.

On top of the recent and sizable increases in cable costs, some cable television providers have begun charging a hefty late payment fee.

Although Congress deregulated cable television and prohibited state or local governments from regulating rates last year, the states retained the ability to regulate fees.

This legislation will do the following:

- Prohibit cable companies from charging a late fee until after the service is received. Currently, late fees are charged before the service is provided.
- Prohibit fees from being charged less than one month after the bill is received.
- Limit the late payment fee to 7% of the monthly bill.

The LRB analysis is reprinted below. Please contact my office at 266-7521 before Friday, May 9 if you would like to cosponsor this legislation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, a cable television service provider may not impose a late fee or finance charge on a customer unless the service period to which the bill relates is concluded and unless the provider reasonably believes that the subscriber received the bill at least one month before payment is due. Also under the bill, no late payment charge or finance charge may be greater than 7% of the amount of the bill.





State of Wisconsin
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Alan T. Tracy, Secretary

2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53704-6777

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

DATE: June 5, 1997

TO: Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee

FROM: William L. Oemichen, Administrator
Division of Trade and Consumer Protection

RE: Assembly Bill 376 - CATV Late Payments

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) supports AB 376, a measure proposed by Representative Black and other legislators to regulate late payment or finance charges for cable television.

Assembly Bill 376 prohibits cable TV operators from imposing subscriber late payment charges or finance charges unless the service period to which the bill relates is concluded, and the subscriber has received the billing statement at least one month before payment is due.

Wisconsin consumer complaint data for the past five years shows a large number of complaints arising from cable television billing practices. Cable TV complaint numbers with the Department have averaged about 90 per year since 1992. Billing disputes and billing practices are at or near the top of the list in terms of the nature of these complaint.

A more recent cable operator practice that has led to complaints with DATCP and municipal franchisers is the late payment charge. For subscribers of TCI cable television services, this charge is presented on subscriber bills as an administrative fee.

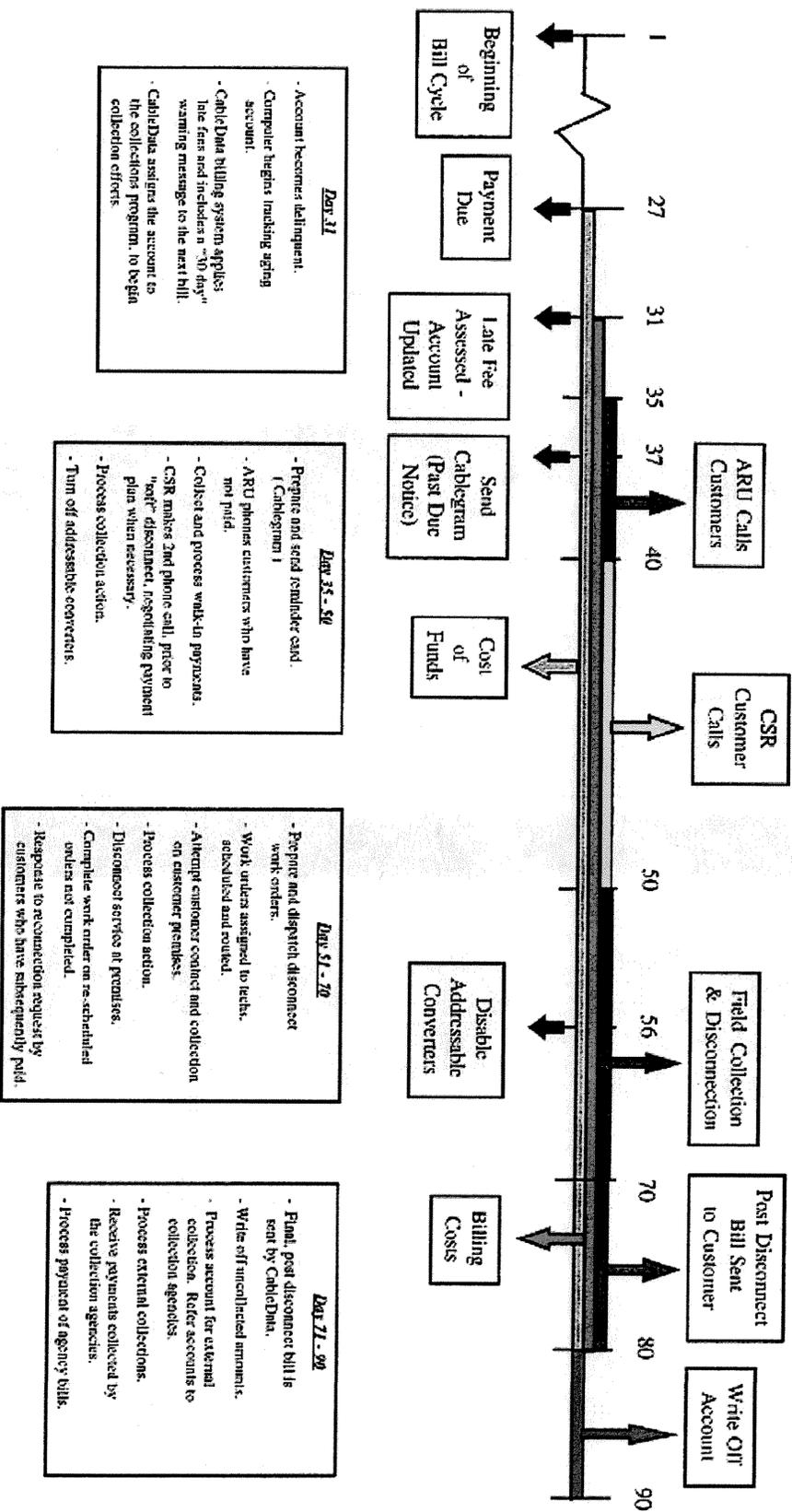
Frequently, the cable TV company will utilize a customer billing cycle in which customer invoices are sent for services still to be rendered. A payment due date is stated that is only a few days away from the consumer's actual receipt of the bill invoice, or in some cases, where the payment due date has already been exceeded.

TCI of Wisconsin incorporates "a friendly reminder" on each customer bill, stating that "an administrative fee of \$3.00 will be assessed if payment is not received by the first." Yet the customer only received the bill during the previous week or so. Is the practice fair? Does the late payment penalty or "administrative fee" correspond to the cable TV company's actual costs? The shorter the timeframe given by cable operators before they assess late payment fees, the more we can expect to see rising numbers of consumer complaints, and the more difficulty a company will have justifying such billing practices.

We believe the issue of cable TV company late payment charges is an appropriate area for legislation here in Wisconsin. Although we recommend some minor wording changes in the bill to ensure that a cable TV company doesn't circumvent legislative intent by calling their late payment charges something different (such as administrative fees), we urge your support for Assembly Bill 376.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on this legislation.

TCI Billing & Collection Timeline



State Representative Spencer Black



State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-7521

July 7, 1997

Cliff Otte, Chair
Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee
State Capitol Rm 109 West

Dear Rep Otte: *Cliff*

Thank you for holding a public hearing on AB 367.

I am enclosing a substitute amendment I had drafted based on the comments of committee members at the hearing. This substitute makes several changes in language that should address the concerns that were raised.

I would appreciate an executive session being scheduled on this bill. Thank you again for your courtesy.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black
Spencer Black
State Representative

Marc,

The Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs voted to recommend passage of LRBs 0211/1 ASA to AB 367 as amended by LRB 20744/1. If I'm doing so, they also voted to combine the simple amendment into the sub. Thus, I need LRBs 0211/1 redrafted incorporating LRB 20744/1, so that I can report the bill out of committee.

Thank you.

DAN YOUNG
6-8530

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 10/23
Bill No. AB 367 (Exec)
Or
Subject
Dorinda Floyd
(Name)
200 E. Wells
(Street Address or Route Number)
Milwaukee 53202
(City & Zip Code)
City of Milwaukee
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6/5/97
Bill No. AB 367
Or
Subject
Spencer Black
(Name)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code) 77 AD
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: June 5, 1997
Bill No. AB 367
Or
Subject
Bill Demichen & Tom Spiebig
(Name)
2811 Agriculture Dr.
(Street Address or Route Number)
Madison 53708
(City & Zip Code)
DATCP
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6/5/97
Bill No. AB 367
Or
Subject: Professor BARRY CARTON
(Name)
4718 LAFAYETTE DR
(Street Address or Route Number)
MADISON WI 53705
(City & Zip Code)
SELF
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only;
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: JUN 5, 1997
Bill No. 367
Or
Subject: Cable TV Billing Practice
(Name)
Thomas Sheppard
1610 W. 2nd St
(Street Address or Route Number)
MILWAUKEE WI
(City & Zip Code)
Jim Wavner Castle
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only;
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6-5-97
Bill No. AB 367
Or
Subject: Jay Hanson
(Name)
2 East Miffin
(Street Address or Route Number)
MADISON
(City & Zip Code)
Bill Calks Compensation Assoc
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only;
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

10:15
preference

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6/5/97
Bill No. AB367
Or
Subject _____

(Name) TIM UOWELL (MARCUS CABLE)
(Street Address or Route Number) 440 SCIENCE DRIVE #302
(City & Zip Code) MADISON, WI 53711
(Representing) MARCUS CABLE

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6-5-97
Bill No. 367
Or
Subject _____

(Name) John Liskey
(Street Address or Route Number) Mineral Pt Rd
(City & Zip Code) Madison - office
(Representing) TCI

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6-5-97
Bill No. AB 367
Or
Subject _____

(Name) Kathleen Keating
(Street Address or Route Number) 1001 Kennedy Ave
(City & Zip Code) Kimberly WI 54136
(Representing) Time Warner Cable

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6-5-97
Bill No. AB 367
Or.
Subject

MARCUS SMITH
(Name) 200 E. WELLS
CITY HALL RM 606
(Street Address or Route Number)
MILWAUKEE 53202
(City & Zip Code)
CITY OF MILW.
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 6-5-97
Bill No. AB 367
Or.
Subject

Kelly Kennedy
(Name) 114 EAST
(Street Address or Route Number)
CAPITOL
(City & Zip Code)
D.O.J.
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

*Sen. Clausung
Registered by
phone for
AB 367
6/5/97*

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Consumer Affairs

Assembly Bill 367

Relating to: prohibiting certain billing practices by cable television companies.

By Representatives Black, Musser, R. Young, J. Lehman, Notestein, Bock, Boyle, Robson, Murat and L. Young; cosponsored by Senator Clausing.

May 20, 1997 Referred to committee on Consumer Affairs.

June 5, 1997 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (7) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, M. Lehman, Urban, Hasenohrl and Black.
Absent: (1) Representative Williams.

Appearances for

- Representative Spencer Black, 77th Assembly District
- Bill Oemichen, Administrator, Division of Trade & Consumer Protection, DATCP
- Tom Stoebig, DATCP
- Professor Barry Orton, Madison

Appearances against

- Thomas Sharrard, Time Warner Cable, Milwaukee
- Tom Hanson, Wisconsin Cable Communication Association, Madison
- Tim Vowell, Marcus Cable, Madison
- John Liskey, TCI, Madison
- Kathleen Keating, Time Warner Cable, Kimberly

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations for

- Senator Alice Clausing, 10th Senate District
- Marcus Smith, City of Milwaukee
- Kelly Kennedy, Department of Justice

Registrations against

- None.

October 23, 1997

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: (7) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, M.
Lehman, Urban, Williams and Black.

Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.

Moved by Representative Black, seconded by Representative Johnsrud, that **ASA 1** be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (6) Representative Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, Urban,
Williams and Black.

Noes: (1) Representative M. Lehman.

Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.

**INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6,
Noes 1, Absent 1**

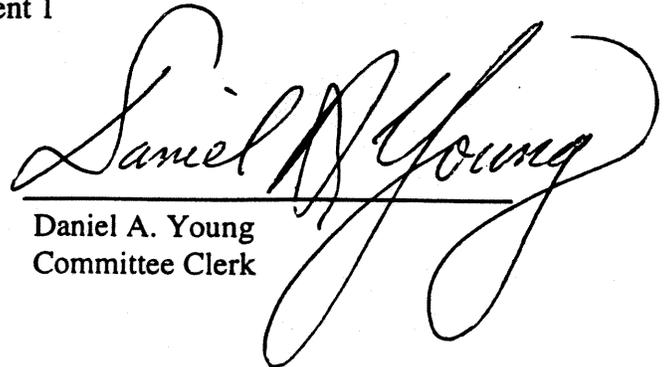
Moved by Representative Black, seconded by Representative Williams, that **Assembly Bill 367** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (6) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, Urban,
Williams and Black.

Noes: (1) Representative M. Lehman.

Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.

**PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 1,
Absent 1**



Daniel A. Young
Committee Clerk

Assembly

Committee Report

The committee on Consumer Affairs, reports and recommends:

Assembly Bill 367

Relating to: prohibiting certain billing practices by cable television companies.

By Representatives Black, Musser, R. Young, J. Lehman, Notestein, Bock, Boyle, Robson, Murat and L. Young; cosponsored by Senator Clausing.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF ASA 1, Ayes 6, Noes 1,
Absent 1

Ayes: (6) Representative Otte, Johnsrud, Ott,-Urban,
Williams and Black.

Noes: (1) Representative M. Lehman.

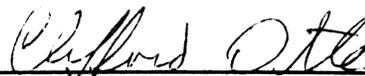
Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 1,
Absent 1

Ayes: (6) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, Urban,
Williams and Black.

Noes: (1) Representative M. Lehman.

Absent: (1) Representative Hasenohrl.



Representative Clifford Otte
Chair

Vote Record

Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs

Date: 10-23-97
 Moved by: Black Seconded by: Johnsrud
 AB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AB: _____ Appointment: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: introduction and adoption of
 A: _____ SR: _____ LRBs 0211/1 with LRBs 0744/1
 incorporated into the sub.
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ (ASA1 to AB367)
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____ LRBs 0211/2
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

- Be recommended for:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrence |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation |

| Committee Member | Aye | No | Absent | Not Voting |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rep. Clifford Otte, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Alvin Ott | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Michael Lehman | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Frank Urban | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Annette Polly Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Donald Hasenohrl | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Spencer Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Totals: | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Vote Record

Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs

Date: 10-23-97
 Moved by: Black Seconded by: Williams
 AB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AB: _____ SB: _____ Appointment: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: ~~ASA~~ to
 A: _____ SR: _____

A/S Amdt: 1 (LRBs 0211/2 to be drafted based on prev. motions) to AB 367
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

- Be recommended for:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passage <u>of ASA</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Indefinite Postponement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconcurrence |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation |

| Committee Member | Aye | No | Absent | Not Voting |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rep. Clifford Otte, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Alvin Ott | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Michael Lehman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Frank Urban | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Annette Polly Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Donald Hasenohr | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Spencer Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Totals: | <u>6</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |



Marcus Cable

December 31, 1996

Representative Bob Zukowski
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

COPY

Dear Representative Zukowski,

I am writing in response to Representative Spencer Black's press release indicating his intention to introduce legislation that would place certain restrictions on the means by which cable operators recover the costs they incur in collecting non-current balances on customer accounts. Specifically, Mr. Black states that the administrative fee is charged before the service has been provided and that it is excessive. He cites one Wisconsin cable operator in particular, and I am unfamiliar with the specifics of that operator's billing policies. However, I am familiar with our own policies at Marcus Cable and Mr. Black's allegations are inaccurate with respect to our company and his proposed legislation would have a negative impact on our customers and your constituents rather than a positive one.

Marcus Cable customers are not assessed a fee for services yet to be rendered. We have implemented multiple billing cycles in many of the communities we serve in order to spread out the telephone traffic in our call centers and reduce telephone wait time during peak periods, and in order to allow our customers to select the most convenient time of the month to pay their cable bills. Billing questions are the largest single category handled by our customer service representatives on the telephone. However, for simplicity, please assume a single monthly billing cycle for purposes of this explanation; the same principles apply in the case of multiple billing cycles regardless of which cycle a customer happens to have.

Our monthly cut off dates for 1996 ranged from the 23rd to the 26th of each month. In 1996, there was an average of thirty-one days between billings. Our customers are not charged a non-current assessment fee for outstanding balances on their accounts *until the next billing cycle after the one in which the amount becomes due*. Consequently, the customer has, in fact, substantially received the service for which they are being charged by the time any non-current fee would appear on their account.

With respect to the amount of the fee, Mr. Black postulates that it is excessive and refers to it as an "... *interest rate*" which brings up two issues. The first is that our fee is not an interest rate. It is a one-time administrative fee assessed to customers with non-current accounts. The second is that the fee is reflective of the combined costs associated with collection activity.

In some cases, the collection activity is minimal and in others it is more complex. Our standard procedure is to notify the customer in writing of the past due amount, then to contact the customer by phone if possible, to send a service representative to the customer's home and attempt collection at the door, and then to disconnect service if necessary in accordance with Wisconsin state statutes. Then we incur the additional costs of follow-up with a collection agency

if the balance remains due. Because each individual customer may proceed to different levels in the collection process, the administrative burden of identifying actual costs incurred on a *per customer* basis would be overwhelming and would drive our costs even higher. Hence, we have estimated the costs associated with *all* collection activity and allocated it to the specific group of customers who cause us to incur those costs rather than spreading it over the entire customer base.

We could legally allocate the costs over the entire customer base because we have the right to recover our operating costs pursuant to federal rate regulation, but to do so would mean that customers who pay their bills on time would be subsidizing those who do not. Our experience indicates that less than ten percent of our customers are assessed non-current fees. That means that over ninety percent of our customers pay their bills on time. In the minds of Marcus Cable executives, it is unfair to burden ninety plus percent of our customers with higher rates to subsidize the less than ten percent who fail to make payment in a timely manner.

The results of our analysis indicate that the administrative fee costs that we incur are higher than the fee revenues that we collect. Therefore, we could justify even higher fees than what we charge. We set the administrative fee level at any given time not in an effort to penalize our customers, but rather to provide quality, efficient service at a fair, equitable rate to everyone.

We have already justified our non-current assessment policy to several Wisconsin communities at their request and our position has been accepted in each one to date based on the data and information we have provided. Some of the communities where this issue has been discussed are: Antigo, New Holstein, Plover, Sheboygan, Verona, Wisconsin Rapids, and with the Inter-Governmental Cable Consortium consisting of communities primarily in Northeastern Wisconsin. Some of the consortium communities include DePere, New London, Gillett, Oconto, Shawano, Chilton, Sturgeon Bay, Ashwaubenon, Bellevue, Alloeuz, Hortonville, Waupaca, Omro, Sheboygan Falls, Kiel, Marion, Wautoma, Berlin, Kewaunee, Coleman and Wausau. Some of the member communities of the consortium have been more active than others and some have "come and gone" over the last year or so, but they adopted a joint ordinance for franchise renewal purposes and the issue of non-current fees was discussed at some length during the negotiations.

In closing, I ask that you bear in mind that Representative Black's proposed legislation will not be in the public interest, is not applicable to all cable companies in general and will result in the subsidization of delinquent paying cable customers by regular paying customers. I ask further that you please do not become a cosponsor of this legislation should you be asked to do so.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss any cable related issues that are of interest to you.

Yours truly,

Tim Vowell
Manager of Franchise and Government Relations