

Jefferson Dobbs
Bar Harbor
LD 1967

State of Maine
Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee
State House
Augusta, Maine

October 24th, 2023

Dear Committee

It has been 43 years since I started my Leased access/ Public Access Cable Station here on Mount Desert Island. Unlike most other Local Access Stations, I do not receive any money from franchise fees, instead the individual towns on Mount Desert Island receive those fees and use them for broadcasting town meetings on the Government Channel and equipment. The Standard Definition access has always been provided by the Cable Companies. We all have been waiting for ten years to be upgraded to High Definition which the Federal Government required all broadcast stations to do years ago.

Since all the money towns and cities receive is ultimately paid for by the customers through franchise fees, why is Spectrum fighting this so hard? If you watch all the public relations style ads Spectrum runs on national television one would think how wonderful they are. Spectrum seems to forget it was the public access component of what the cable offered over forty years ago helped convince towns and cities to allow them in. Charter probably spends more money on legal fees then they ever would converting public access to High Definition.

The only reason LD920 was defeated several years ago because of all the misinformation Charter handed to the Governor's Office several years ago.

Let's get this over with and make Spectrum to the right thing, please support LD 1967. The time is up, Maine Local Access Cable Stations have been ready to broadcast in High Definition for years. Please correct this mistake.

Sincerely Yours, Jefferson Dobbs
President: Dobbs Productions Inc.
The Acadia Channel/MDI Tv