



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

**REP. HEBL CALLS ON CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS NOT
TO DENY ACCESS TO COMMUNITY ACCESS STATIONS**

MADISON - State Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) and officials from Sun Prairie Cable Access Television will raise their concerns about the ability of consumers to view community access channels if Charter Communications implements proposed changes next month at a Sun Prairie Cable Access Board meeting Thursday.

Charter Communications announced recently it plans to move all public, education and government (PEG) channels to 980-994, which will comprise a new public affairs neighborhood of channels. According to Charter officials, as of **Aug. 12**, the following changes will be made to Sun Prairie's two channels: KSUN-12 will be moved to channel 983 and KIDS-4 will be moved to channel 984.

On **Thursday, July 17 at 7:30 a.m.**, the **Sun Prairie Cable Access Board** will have a meeting with Tim Vowell, Director of Government Relations for Charter Communications on the changes at Sun Prairie Cable Access Television, located at **1350 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie.**

"I am very concerned about the effect these changes are going to have on consumers' ability to view the content on community access stations," Hebl said. "With these proposed changes, I believe Sun Prairie Cable Access Television will lose viewers. That's why I want to make sure consumers are aware that they will need to have a digital cable box or a TV with a QUAM tuner in order to continue receiving their community access channels."

Hebl said Charter officials have told him the company will provide these boxes free for six months to customers without digital TVs or the tuner.

The announcement of this meeting comes following the release of a letter last week by the Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels (WAPC) to Tim Vowell, Director of Government Relations Charter Communications. The letter stated the proposed changes "would violate federal and state laws, especially given the way Charter has been marketing its services."

According to WAPC officials, the basis of their claim is that Charter does not “plan to provide subscribers who buy the basic tier a converter automatically, which means that the subscribers will be paying for channels that they will no longer automatically receive.

Pam Steitz, executive director of Sun Prairie Cable Access Television (SPCATV) said while Sun Prairie is willing to work with Charter, these changes will be a blow to the station.

“SPCATV has been operating for 30 years and now we’re running into this roadblock,” Steitz said. “While I am very concerned about the changes, it’s important for our customers to know we’ll still have the great programming it’s just going to be available in a different location.”

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