



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS RELEASE

**HEBL APPLAUDS CHARTER, BIG-TEN NETWORK DEAL**  
*State Representative relieved Badger fans will see the 2008-09 Season*

MADISON - State Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) applauded the deal finally inked Wednesday by Charter Communications and the Big Ten Network.

"This is a relief. During the last year I heard from many of my friends and neighbors who were unable to watch the Badgers game on TV," Hebl said. "The Badgers are important to this area, and I am relieved that parties were able to come together for the fans in time for the 2008-09 Big-Ten Season."

Hebl has been a leader on cable consumer rights issues and protection of Public, Education and Government (PEG) Channels. In 2007, Hebl introduced an amendment to the Video Competition Act, calling for both sides to come together through arbitration. (*See Assembly Amendment 1, to Senate Amendment 13, to 2007 Assembly Bill 207.*)

"With Charter being the only 'game in town' and with no other video service providers planning on offering services, many people were very frustrated by the lack of competition," Hebl said. "I hope the efforts my colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle helped both companies agree on one thing - *On Wisconsin!*"

According to an email sent by the University Relations: "The Big Ten Network and Charter Communications have reached an agreement-in-principle on terms of a multi-year distribution agreement in which Charter will carry the Big Ten Network and related programming throughout the Big Ten territory, including its systems in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Northern Illinois."

The email further stated the two companies are currently working together to ensure the majority of these same systems can launch the network on its expanded basic level of service in time for Saturday's Big Ten college football openers.

"I am proud to support the Big Ten network's effort to create a minimum revenue guarantee of \$6.1 million from the Big Ten Network to help young people who can't afford to go to college," Hebl said. "This money will be used to enhance campus libraries and keep UW athletics competitive. That's what our Legislature should be doing with the University of Wisconsin System."

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