



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

**For Immediate Release**  
11-13-09

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**Rep. Gary Hebl: ‘Now is the Time for Meaningful Cable Reform’**

Many of you will remember the fight for cable competition from last year, all the promises of increased competition and lower prices for consumers, as well as better service and more family supporting union jobs. Well, in many areas of the state, these promises have just fallen flat. What’s worse is that in exchange for these unfulfilled promises, Wisconsin drastically deregulated the cable industry, suspending many of our consumer protections, ceding local control to the state and sunsetting the funding that local cable access stations depend on to stay in business.

These facts came to light at a roundtable discussion I hosted earlier this week on the topic of cable regulation reform in Wisconsin. At the discussion, Rich Pearson, Vice President of Communications Workers of America Local 4603 of Milwaukee explained that his union local had experienced a 15 percent decrease in membership in the last year. Mary Cardona, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of Public Education and Governmental Access Channels, detailed the cable competition law is soon to claim its first public access station victim due to loss of fee revenue established under the law. Professor Barry Orton of the University of Wisconsin – Madison spoke to why having local control over consumer protection

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