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**TVFREEDOM.ORG CALLS ON CONGRESS TO PASS THE  
2015 COMMUNITY ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT (CAP ACT)**

*“Our Nation’s laws and policies must help advance the longterm viability of  
local television channels.”*

**Washington, D.C.** – TVfreedom.org today applauded Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) for introducing legislation to help advance and expand the ability of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television channels to deliver locally-tailored content to television viewers. TVfreedom.org fully supports the 2015 Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act (S.1244) and urges Congress to pass this important legislation this legislative session.

To help spur economic growth and create jobs locally, the CAP Act would permit PEG stations to use funding to support employee salaries, no longer limiting its use to the purchase of equipment and technical upgrades. The legislation would allow municipalities in states with statewide franchising authority to seek funding from cable operators to carry PEG access channels on their systems. Finally, S.1244 would require cable operators to treat PEG access channels the same as all other cable network and broadcast channels when it comes to transmission and quality of signal.

“Our Nation’s laws and policies must help advance the longterm viability of local television channels,” said TVfreedom spokesman Robert C. Kenny. “Like local broadcast TV stations, PEG access channels serve an integral role in American culture, helping keep television viewers informed about what is going on in their hometowns and serving as the primary source of educational and local government programming in cities, towns and suburbs across the country.”

PEG access channels encourage civic engagement by bringing local issues and people together via local television, and have historically provided viewers’ access to local government public service channels, as well as programming delivered by educational institutions and community-based, nonprofit organizations, such as religious groups year round.

John Rocco, President of American Community Television (ACT), said, “In these challenging economic times in which the budgets of local governments are shrinking and municipalities are asked to do more with less, it is critical that lawmakers factor this into their legislative agendas as they seek to empower local governments to deliver public service television programming to their communities.”

According to ACT, Congress, through the cable acts of 1984 and 1992, intended to make sure that local communities could have PEG access channels and funding in return for the cable operators’ use of public rights-of-way. Funding for PEG access channels has been eliminated in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina and Wisconsin. ACT estimates as many as five hundred PEG channels in these states are at risk of shut-down.

“We are at a critical juncture on this issue, passing the CAP Act into law is a vitally important first step in reversing the trend of hundreds of PEG access channels permanently going off the air across the country and helping bring much needed stability to this important sector of the U.S. video marketplace,” Rocco said.

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*[TVfreedom.org](http://TVfreedom.org) is a coalition of local broadcasters, community advocates, network television affiliate associations, multicast networks, manufacturers and other independent broadcaster-related organizations committed to helping protect consumer interests, ensure emergency and weather related programming access, promote the value of broadcast-TV programming, and preserve a fair and free video marketplace.*

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