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**Adelphia**

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
ALBANY, N.Y. March 3, 1999

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Town of Wales  
Town Hall  
12345 Big Tree Road  
Wales Center, NY 14169

99-V-0372  
Orig.-Files  
Copies - J. Grow-13  
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Dear Town Clerk:

The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("1984 Cable Act") was enacted to establish a comprehensive, national policy for cable television. In doing so, it sets forth the definitive guidelines by which relations between cable operators and municipalities are to be governed. Among other subjects, the Act addresses franchise renewals, franchise fees, and programming content control. While this Act has been amended significantly by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 ("1992 Cable Act"), the basic requirements of franchise renewal, franchise fees, and programming content remain the same.

The current franchise agreement between the Town of Wales ("Town" or "Wales") and Parnassos, L.P. ("Parnassos") expires on *March 10, 2002*. Pursuant to Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Act (47 U.S. Code 546), Parnassos hereby initiates franchise renewal proceedings with the Town. Section 626 establishes specific guidelines for a franchising authority's evaluation of an existing franchisee.

As the first step in the renewal process under this Section, the Town, at the request of Parnassos, is required to commence proceedings to review the performance of Parnassos under the current franchise and to identify the future cable-related needs and interests of Wales. These proceedings must afford the public in Wales appropriate notice and opportunity for participation. Please accept this letter as Parnassos' formal request for the commencement of such proceedings.

To follow each of the formal steps set out in Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Act in all of their detail could be a time-consuming, inflexible, and expensive process for both parties, a process that seems unwarranted in view of the good relations we have enjoyed in the past. Fortunately, while Section 626 sets out formal renewal proceedings, it also encourages the operator and municipality to seek renewal on a parallel, but more informal, basis (See Section 626(h)). Given our history of smooth relations, it would seem that we in fact should be able to conclude a new agreement through informal negotiations long before most of the formalities of Section 626 have been initiated.

We are willing to work on a franchise renewal on an informal basis. But while we

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much prefer an informal negotiation, we do not waive our rights to the formal procedures and respectfully request that the Town begin implementation of these formal procedures consistent with the guidelines established by the Cable Act. We further reserve the right to continue our request for these procedures throughout the franchise renewal process. Even with these legal formalities, given our past working relationship, we should be able to conclude our negotiations quickly and to everyone's satisfaction.

Should you have any questions on the 1984 Cable Act in general or on Section 626 in particular, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Rigas  
Vice President  
Adelphia Communications Corporation

MJR/jdt

Attachment

cc: Randall D. Fisher, Esq.  
Bill Kent  
Dave Rahr  
Tom Haywood  
Lori Reed

NYS Public Service Commission ✓