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Congress requests probe of AT&T's cable service

October 1st, 2008

Following a September 17 hearing (noted here) by the U.S. House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee, Democratic and Republican members

have written the FCC asking for an investigation into changes in the treatment of public access channels on cable TV.

Noting concerns about the quality and accessibility of public access channels on AT&T's new U-verse cable service as well as the "degradation" of emergency

alert systems and other public safety communications on the AT&T service, they cite testimony by an FCC representative at the hearing that "statute requires

PEG channels to be placed on the basic service tier along with your local broadcast channels. So to place additional burdens on consumers to have to find

their PEG channels seems to defeat the purpose of the basic service tier."

The Representatives request that the FCC "assess these concerns to determine whether the situations described are contrary to federal laws and regulations,

and if so, take expeditious enforcement actions."

AT&T declined to send a representative to the hearing.

Press release and letter available at [Illinois Channels](#).