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7 Introduced September 12, 1989,
8 by Councilman Callahan, seconded
9 by Councilman Salvaggio and
10 Councilman Berault
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13 **RESOLUTION R89-48**
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16 A resolution urging the Congress of the United States
17 to revise the Cable Communication Policy Act of 1984, and
18 expressing general concern about the need for greater local
19 government regulatory authority.
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21 WHEREAS, the Cable Communications Act of 1984
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23 restricted states' and local governments' abilities to regulate
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25 the cable television industry directly; and
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27 WHEREAS, since the passage of the Cable Communications
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29 Act of 1984, concentrations of ownership amounting to monopolies
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31 have increased among cable operators, even though that Act was
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33 intended to "promote competition in cable communications and
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35 minimize unnecessary regulations that impose undue economic
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37 burden on cable systems"; and
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39 WHEREAS, municipalities throughout the nation,
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41 including this one, have been subjected to substantial rate
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43 increases, service reductions, and programming changes that do
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45 not reflect consumers' needs or the original intentions of their
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47 franchise agreements; and
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49 WHEREAS, more than half of the nation's households,
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51 and more than 15,000 of the residents of this City subscribe to
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53 cable, and cable television is increasingly becoming the main
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55 means of access to information and entertainment; and
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57 WHEREAS, cable subscribers in this City have been
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59 subjected to substantial rates increases over the past several
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61 years; and
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63 WHEREAS, cable television is rapidly being priced
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65 beyond the reach of lower income people, including families with
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67 children and the elderly, who are particularly in need of
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69 information and other services that are available solely through
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71 cable television; and
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12 WHEREAS, the diversity of information services
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14 promised by the 1984 Cable Communications Act has failed to
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16 materialize; and

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18 WHEREAS, the promise of universal service, similarly,
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20 has not been fulfilled; and

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22 WHEREAS, existing law provides this City and other
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24 franchising authorities no authority to control or question the
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26 imposition by cable franchisees of exorbitant rates upon citizens
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28 whose rights-of-way have been placed at the companies' disposal
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30 by virtue of the grant of franchises; and

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32 WHEREAS, the National League of Cities has adopted
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34 policies in favor of increasing local governments' cable
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36 regulatory authority and in favor of more competition in the
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38 provision of cable television service to consumers; and


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40 WHEREAS, legislation that is now pending in the
41
42 Congress seeds comprehensive changes in the Cable Communications
43
44 Act of 1984.


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46 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

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48 1. The Slidell City Council declares its support for the
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50 restoration of local regulatory authority over cable
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52 television systems.
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54 2. The Congress of the United States should rewrite the
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56 Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, with particular
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58 focus on reregulation of subscriber rates, allowance of
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60 telephone company provision of cable service under
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62 circumstances that respect local government authority,
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64 system ownership transfers, the impact of vertical
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66 integration in the cable industry, and other aspects of
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68 the Act that directly impact local regulation and
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70 consumers.
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12 3. The Slidell City Council urges Congressional action for
13 appropriate federal legislation to restore local
14 authority over cable systems, to eliminate the barriers
15 to competition, and to rectify other aspects of the 1984
16 Act that work to disfavor cable consumers.
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29 ADOPTED this 12th day of September, 1989.
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36 Philip M. Salvaggio
37 Councilman, District F
38 President of the Council
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43 Davis Dautreuil
44 Council Administrator/Clerk of the Council
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