



The Honorable Bill Finney  
320-C City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd., West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

May 6, 2015

Dear Councilmember Finney,

Cable television, broadband connections, and the associated services provided through cable television provide critical connections for low income people to engage in the greater community, seek employment, develop skills through education, and take advantage of opportunities to thrive. For immigrants, these services offer crucial connections with family and resources.

As you consider an additional cable franchise for the city for Century Link, please take into account the specific needs of communities of color, low income communities, and immigrants. A new cable provider in the city does not create any benefit for people who cannot access or cannot afford the service. On behalf of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Minneapolis, I ask you to build into the franchise the requirements that the provider extend the system into low income neighborhoods to assure access and provide packages that are affordable to people with lower incomes. Requiring any new franchise holder to make their service available citywide will go a long way toward assuring that people of color do not fall further behind and will provide the entire city of Minneapolis with the benefits that come with competition.

Telecommunication connections are critical to the growth and future of our communities. Competition could help lower prices and expedite technology improvements. This, however, only works if the services are available where they are needed. We need you to make sure that the distribution of services is equitable.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sia Her".

Sia Her  
Executive Director  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans