



**East Side Neighborhood
Development Company, Inc.**

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Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

May 4, 2015

Dear Council President Russ Stark and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

Thank you for your efforts to be a strong voice for the entire city as we all work hard to make sure the economic energy building in St. Paul reaches out to the entire community.

I have been closely following the debate about CenturyLink introducing new cable television to Minneapolis, and they now intend to do the same in Saint Paul. This is a great opportunity for people on the East Side to have choices between different companies that should give people more options that cost less.

My concern is about where CenturyLink will decide to bring cable competition to and if the East Side of Saint Paul will be left behind. CenturyLink's proposed franchise agreement with Minneapolis is what gives me pause. I am afraid that there is the risk that the City Council will let CenturyLink decide to only service select neighborhoods.

History has proven to people on the East Side that they are too often the last neighborhood thought of when it comes to issues like this. New ideas, new investment, and new opportunities too often happen somewhere else in Saint Paul.

Fortunately, the East Side scarcity dynamic of the past is changing for the better these days. The East Side is on the ascendancy. Century Link's prospective franchise agreement with the City is an opportunity to further support the East Side's momentum

This is the time to make sure CenturyLink commits to making sure Payne Avenue and other parts of the East Side are guaranteed to not have to wait for new services to come to our community. You have the ability to set this standard that will send an important message to the East Side, as well as the entire city.

Thank you for your consideration of this perspective. I can be reached at 651-288-8746, or jvaughn@esndc.org.

Sincerely,

John Vaughn