

From: L. A. Stambaugh **Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 6:17 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4; letters@pioneerpress.com; Henningson, Samantha (CI-StPaul); Bauer, Kelly (CI-StPaul)
Subject: St. Paul's Comcast Agreement

Dear Mr. Stark,

When perusing local news today, I ran across a headline in the Pioneer Press ([St. Paul's franchise agreement with Comcast heading for approval](#)) which, for a brief moment, led to hope that perhaps St. Paul would finally end the torture that is the Comcast monopoly.

Sadly, I was let down. Then, to rub salt in the wound, it appears that not only are we not to terminate this ridiculous arrangement, [my own Ward representative](#) is the sponsor. I haven't a clue why on earth anyone would want their name tied to this proposal, but I hope it was an oversight on your part.

I could write an extraordinarily lengthy letter summarizing my heartfelt dismay, my own personal horror stories of dealing with Comcast (seriously - they made my sister cry), the issues created by the lack of decent internet service in this area & the ways in which they affect the agencies I work with (reducing efficiency, killing technology budgets with little return for the investment, just to start), and on, and on, and on. However, I'm sure you've heard it all before (if not, I'd recommend checking out the annual Consumerist Worst Company in America award. Comcast wins regularly, and is actually the [current](#) recipient).

This is not the sort of business St. Paul should be engaging in.

Has the Council considered [creating its own infrastructure](#) for internet services in St. Paul, or joining with Dakota County in [their efforts](#)? While the upfront costs are certainly nothing to ignore (although may I suggest looking into [grants](#)), the long term economic boost to the area is potentially of significant interest to all of us. I assure you, I am not alone in my concern; there was an incredibly informative [recent article](#) on the subject. Please listen to the [voices of your constituents](#).

I look forward to seeing the Council promote an innovate, technologically innovative, forward-thinking St. Paul tomorrow when this proposal comes up.

Sincerely,

L.A. Stambaugh
Albert St. (Ward 4)