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October 22, 2015

The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle President Cook County Board of Commissioners 118 N. Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle

In behalf of the members of the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC), I urge you to <u>Oppose</u> the extension of the 3% Amusement Tax to paid TV services in the home as well as other activities such as bowling and golf. The WCMC is opposed to these increases because:

- **Consumer Tax Burden Already High:** Customers of cable and paid TV are already subject to high fees and taxes and this proposal would take even more money out of the homes in our community. If this proposal goes into effect, our citizens will face a 60% increase to \$90 a year in the suburbs.
- **Cities and Villages Lose:** The proposed tax would apply to local and state franchise holders only, likely prompting increasing number of people who "cut the cord" and migrate to untaxed video services. The result: Lost franchise fee revenue for cities and villages.
- Fixed Incomes Hit the Hardest: These regressive taxes and fees would disproportionately (and adversely) impact homes living on fixed incomes (such as seniors) or working paycheck to paycheck.

Once again the WCMC urges you to <u>Oppose</u> the extension of the 3% Amusement Tax on paid TV services as well as the other recreational activities such as bowling and golf. We also ask and encourage you to seek other remedies to the County's revenue shortfall, preferably ones that do not threaten to create revenue shortfalls at the municipal level.

Yours Truly,

Executive Director

Richard F. Pellegrino

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