

Please Note.....

This letter was read aloud by Tom Dawson at the Bedford Township Board Meeting on January 31, 2006

January 27, 2004

Mr. Walt Wilburn, Supervisor
Bedford Township
8100 Jackman Rd.
PO Box H
Temperance, MI 48182-0607

Dear Mr. Wilburn:

In response to your letter of Jan. 19 seeking our reaction to the request by the Trustees to alter our Permit to Operate (by removing the schools as a beneficiary of part of the franchise fee paid to the Township), let me reply that we at Buckeye CableSystem have always operated in the spirit of cooperation.

We try to accommodate the needs of all the public entities with which we deal – Township Trustees, City and Village Councils and Administrators, and public and private school systems, among others. Over the 40 years in which we've been in business, we've wired more than 200 school buildings in our service area at no charge and provide free cable service to them, we've endowed two scholarships at the college level, and have offered monetary support at all levels. Recipients include all the elementary schools and most high schools in our area, Monroe County Community College, the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Medical University of Ohio, Owens Community College, the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, Notre Dame Academy, and Lourdes College, among others.

We view ourselves as “unifiers” rather than “dividers.”

Now we find ourselves in a somewhat conflicted situation. We are put in the middle of a controversy involving two public entities, both of whom we value and support. We have always actively supported the schools in our service areas and we have always insisted on operating ethically, legally, and morally in everything we do.

We don't want to take sides in this controversy. At this point, we have a valid agreement with the Township that involves the Bedford School District as an express beneficiary, and we are hesitant to make changes unless and until the Township, the School District, and our Company are all in agreement with those changes. **Even if the School District does not have a legal right to hold the Township and us to the contract, we believe it has a strong moral claim to expect us to honor our promises.**

I hope this provides the information you need for your meeting with the school board and cable committee on Jan. 31. We wish everyone the best and hope to do everything we can to foster a good working relationship among Buckeye CableSystem, Bedford Township, and Bedford schools.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Dawson
Director, Government and Community Affairs

TKD/pc