

Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

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Dear Chairman Pai:

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RE: Comment on the Proposed Rulemaking MB Docket No. 05-311

The City of Hudson WI urges the FCC not to change the way federal law has always been interpreted and to continue to require cable operators and other video providers to provide channel space and transmission of local PEG access channels at no charge to municipalities. Wisconsin municipalities are forbidden by Wisconsin statute from collecting a "PEG fee" to fund PEG-related equipment and facilities, making them completely reliant on the franchise fee to fund public, education, and government (PEG) access television. Video provider franchise fees are set by Wisconsin statute and cannot be increased or decreased from the rate a municipality received in 2008.

Our local public, education, and government (PEG) access channels serve important community needs in Hudson and North Hudson by providing transparency in government, informing and involving citizens in the electoral process, providing information on municipal services and serving local non-profits, schools, the business community, the local arts scene, and places of worship. The intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act was to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy.

PEG access channels provide communities with information from diverse sources because they are open to local government, local schools, and members of the community. PEG access channels enable the public to use cable television, a mass medium, which otherwise would be closed to them, to communicate to diverse groups and to the larger community about matters of concern to them.

Setting a financial value on PEG access channels, whether cost-based or market-based, that municipalities will be forced to pay out of franchise fees could force Wisconsin municipalities, including Hudson North Hudson Community Access River Channels to close our media centers and give back the PEG access channels due to a lack of funding.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community.

Hudson WI City Council



Rich O'Connor, Mayor
City of Hudson, WI

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