

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 8, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner

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

RE: MB Docket No. 05-311. Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992.

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks:

The School Board of Colchester, Vermont, is strongly opposed to the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), which proposes to allow cable companies to deduct the fair market value of a wide range of public benefits from their franchise fee obligations, including Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) channel capacity and free or low-cost cable services to educational institutions.

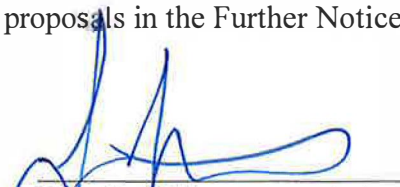
Further, we support the Comments of our local PEG Access facility, Lake Champlain Access Television, Inc. (“LCATV,” File ID 1031754013658), and assert that their presence enables the residents of Colchester to watch uniquely local programming about the community and events and issues of interest to them. LCATV has also provided a vital link between our town’s residents and their schools and School Board through over 20 years of educational partnerships, including media classes and workshops, School Board candidate forums and District informational programming, and regular televised and live-streamed coverage of School Board meetings.

We believe that these kinds of activities and services represent the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

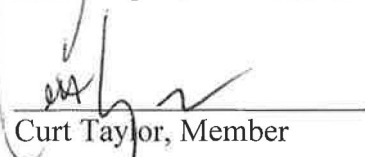
We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,


Mike Rogers, Board Chair


Lincoln White, Vice Chair


Craig Kieny, Clerk


Curt Taylor, Member


Lindsey Cox, Member