

October 25, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *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*, MB Docket 05- 311.

Berwick is a small town with fewer than 6000 residents. Our public access station, Berwick Community TV, is an integral part of this community. BCTV provides coverage of public events hosted by the Berwick Public Library, The Berwick Historical Society, American Legion Post #79 and many other non-profit organizations. They also cover parades, craft fairs, farmers markets and so much more. They go into the schools to record, edit, and post videos of school board meetings, concerts, sporting events, and special presentations. And, they broadcast Selectmen, Planning Board, Board of Appeals and other special Town meetings.

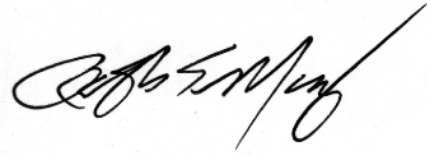
BCTV has an audience of approximately 3000 residents who receive us on Comcast channel 22 and another 1500-3000 residents who can watch our station streaming on our Berwick webpage. Our small access station brings the community together. It informs and educates residents on the opportunities and events within our Town. Non-profits utilize the slideshow to notify viewers of registration for soccer games, church suppers, or tickets for the newest play in Berwick. BCTV filmed our Police Department informing residents about the Opioid Epidemic and the Community Drug Watch programs. They filmed the Salmon Falls Emergency Exercises done by local departments and County agencies. You might say they are a Town asset when it comes to getting information out to residents quickly. With a scroll, residents learn about road closures, electrical outages, and other time sensitive information.

This local presence enables the residents of our town to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was 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.

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

others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Morang", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Ralph Morang, Berwick, ME

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner