

July 24, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: 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, Third Report and Order - MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am Elizabeth Silva, a member of Chelmsford and a current high school student at Chelmsford High School (CHS). I am writing to express my serious concern and disagreement to the FCC's proposed Third Report and Order requiring Local Franchising Authorities ("LFA's") to treat cable-related, in-kind contributions as franchise fees subject to the statutory five percent franchise fee cap.

This change would be devastating to the PEG facility that I – and my community – rely on.

We rely on having virtually all our municipal meetings broadcast live and subsequently archived. This allows us transparent access to our government, especially for those that are mobility-challenged or otherwise unable to attend meetings.

Our PEG facility also operates a robust TV/Media education program in collaboration with Chelmsford Public Schools. They teach students the skills to be proficient in this media age. Equally important, those students help provide high quality coverage of school sports, concerts and other educational programming to their peers, parents, grandparents and other community members.

The CHS TV (Chelmsford Highschool Tv) program would not be possible without CTM's support. CTM provides CHS TV with funding and equipment and also amazing mentors and people who help students do what they love to do. CHS TV covers all of the varsity football games, theatre productions, school concerts and many other sports including rugby, softball, volleyball, soccer and basketball. Without those productions, parents, family members or friends who couldn't attend the games could watch and support their child. Those productions are also great ways for students to become better at technical engineering, replay, graphics, directing, camera etc. What's great is that, the students can try many different things and not just stick with one thing. But if the student is great at one thing and just wants to stick with that, then it's a great way for them to focus and specialize to become more proficient. I loved learning camera, graphics, the replay system and audio!-and I plan to try out more activities! The productions

bring the students together and teaches them how to be a team. It teaches students how to become a team member, to work hard, and most importantly to become a leader and build their confidence. Especially in CHS TV's original productions.

I am more interested in being in front of the camera-interviewing, being an anchor, reporting etc- and I also love to create and lead projects. And CTM and CHS TV has helped me continue with my passion and grow as a person. I found my love of being in front of the camera by actually being a host on "Ask the Superintendent", a show produced by two CTM volunteers. CTM provides a chance for adults, and students to produce shows and find out what it takes to make a show. Anyway, after being a guest host, I was asked to do future episodes, and that's how my 'career' in front of the camera began. When I became a freshman in highschool more doors opened for me. The CHS TV club really helped me feel involved and part of the community. The group has such great people, who I know I can count on. I started interviewing football players and football coaches at football games, and I met so many people that I wouldn't have met. Now when I walk in the hallways and see a coach or someone I interviewed, we smile or say "hi" to each other, and I feel happy to put down another friend or person I can trust on my list. But, I didn't want to just be a reporter, I wanted to create original content for the club. I had so many ideas, and I presented them to the club advisors, who listened, supported and helped me complete my goal. And then it began. We produced a new cast about how a football game is a community. People go to a game, not to just support the players, but to watch the band and color guard perform, to eat at the Snack Shack and to socialize with friends. CHS TV then created a Club Website, where all the clubs with their descriptions, details and if the club wanted, a short promo video about what the club was all about were posted. Then in the Spring, we produced a spring newscast about events at CHS. I was Student Producer for the football newscast and club website and Co-Student Producer and Co-Ancor for the Spring Newscast. I became a better leader, and met so many new people. I learned how to coordinate interviews, the best type of questions to ask, how to lead a team, and to trust others to do their part. This club and CTM has helped me to be more confident and trust myself and others. I wouldn't have grown as a person or be as proud to be who I am if I wasn't part of the club and the CTM community. But without CTM's support CHS TV wouldn't be possible, and it would hurt so many people if CHS TV was no more.

Lastly, our access center gives our citizens a platform to express their views to the greater community. In today's day and age, this communication channel is more important than ever.

The loss of revenue caused by the Order will force municipalities to either divert resources away from core municipal and school services to maintain existing PEG programming, suffer a dramatic reduction in the scope of PEG channels, or lose them altogether.

The FCC is a guardian of the public interest, yet the effects of this order seem destined to go against the public interest. Rather, they amount to a windfall for cable providers eager to shed their civic responsibilities under Federal Law.

Lastly, I have read the contract our providers – Comcast and Verizon – have signed with our town, and this order seems in direct violation of both the letter and the spirit of that contract. I strongly urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Silva