

ANN McLANE KUSTER
SECOND DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WWW.KUSTERHOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY
COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 19, 2019

WASHINGTON OFFICE
320 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902
P (202) 225-5206

CONCORD OFFICE
18 NORTH MAIN STREET, 4TH FLOOR
CONCORD, NH 03301
P (603) 226-1002

NASHUA OFFICE
184 MAIN STREET, SUITE 222
NASHUA, NH 03060
P (603) 595-2006

NORTH COUNTRY OFFICE
33 MAIN STREET, SUITE 202
LITTLETON, NH 03561
P (603) 444-7700

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

237

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing you regarding the recent action taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to proceed with the "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 No. 05-311). Should this proposal move forward, it would potentially alter the terms of the governing agreements between Local Franchising Authorities (LFA) and cable operators. This proposal puts at risk critical funding for Public, Educational, or Governmental (PEG) stations as well as broadband connections to schools and other anchor institutions. PEG stations provide my constituents in New Hampshire with an important resource for monitoring local government proceedings, obtaining local news, and consuming other locally produced programming including emergency notifications. I hope that the FCC will take these concerns into consideration and ensure the sustainability of PEG stations is not threatened by your final rule.

The Cable Communications Act of 1984 gives towns and cities across the country the authority to require, as part of cable franchise agreements, that cable operators meet certain community needs by setting aside channel capacity and providing adequate facilities, equipment, or support for PEG stations. However, the FCC's current proposal would result in a significant reduction in financial support for local programs by allowing cable operators to deduct in-kind contributions from the franchise fees that go to funding public programming. If the proposed rule is adopted, I am concerned PEG stations across my district will lose their ability to fulfill their vital mission.

PEG stations provide local communities with access to critical information and represent an important platform for local viewers and fulfill a crucial role in the communities they serve. As the FCC proceeds on this issue, I urge you to closely examine the impact the proposed changes will have on PEG stations.

Sincerely,


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress