

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
President

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FCC Mailroom

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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August 8, 2019

Dear Chairman Pai:

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I write to express my strong concern about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposed rule (MB Docket No. 05-311) that would permit cable providers to reduce their franchise fee payments to local franchising authorities (LFAs). By allowing cable companies to include the fair market value of so-called "in-kind" benefits in calculating their franchise fee obligations, the FCC is severely disrupting a revenue model that makes possible valuable communications and information resources for millions across the country. This will ultimately squeeze PEG channels out of the product offerings.

Prince George's Community College Television (PGCC-TV) operates as a PEG channel in Prince George's County, Maryland. PGCC-TV has a long history producing original television programming focused on serving the educational and informational needs of our students and community. PGCC-TV's award-winning programs not only educate and inform residents about the academic and career opportunities available at Prince George's Community College, our programs also promote the college's role in the economic growth of our county by preparing students for high demand jobs in the region.

Most notably, PGCC-TV was recognized for producing a documentary which shined a spotlight on the problems faced by male students of color in higher education and the resources the college provides to support their academic needs. Other programs produced by PGCC-TV have focused on college readiness, college affordability and college completion for minority, first-generation, low income, and immigrants students in our county.

PGCC-TV has also produced programs to support the economic growth and development of minority and small businesses in our region and to improve the financial literacy and empowerment of low-income residents. In addition, PGCC-TV has produced programs to honor and record the stories of our local military service members and veterans as part of the Veteran's History project.

Furthermore, PGCC-TV has produced programming featuring local medical professionals to promote the health and wellness of our community, as well as programs celebrating local artists and the cultural vibrancy of our region. This content produced addresses our commitment to the success of our students and the growth, health, and prosperity of our community.

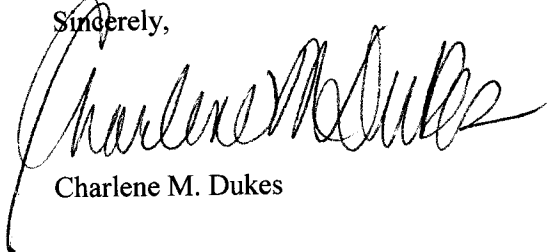
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While creating this programming, the College educates and trains future telecommunications professionals who go on to work at cable and broadcast networks, local stations, and professional sports teams in the broadcast operations. This practical, hands-on educational experience helps ensure these students can begin their careers with strong experience, and this would not be possible without the funding afforded by cable franchise fees.

Our community is concerned that the commitment to public access communications could be diminished. At the August Open Commission Meeting, I ask that you seriously consider the impact the FCC's proposed rule will undoubtedly have on financial support for public access channels. I urge that you preserve Congress' intent in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 and ensure that franchise fees remain a consistent and reliable resource that serves millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlene M. Dukes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Charlene M. Dukes