November 8, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission

455 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544  
  
Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to express my concern 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.

I live and work in the Town of Andover, MA. The community participates in civil government with robust passion, share their opinions and possible solutions. The residents would like transparency in their local government, and part of doing so is to use our local community media center to record our meetings. We post informational slides through our local media center (called Andover TV).

The staff at our local media center are outstanding, and very responsive to our needs. We have also come to know them and we appreciate their knowledge when it comes to televising events within the Town, and using the government channel as another source of relevant and important information to our residents. This resource is invaluable to Andover residents, and residents throughout every American community! Please choose not to adopt many of the proposals that would harm or possibly eliminate this service to the people.

This local presence enables the residents of our Andover 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.

We 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,

Elena M Kothman

Executive Director of Retirement Services, Town of Andover, MA

cc: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner

The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner