

Date November 8th, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write 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.

Andover Massachusetts is an active, vibrant community North of Boston that makes use of PEG funding via AndoverTV and its resources seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Andover TV is an integral part of the towns way of communicating with residents. Last year alone, AndoverTV produced live broadcasts of over 250 Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Zoning board, and multiple other special events. We are THE only audio and video record of these meetings and thus are the primary source for residents to keep up to date and maintain transparency with their local government. Older citizens rely on us for keeping in touch with their community and government through PEG channels. These are channels that were created for the express purpose of giving back to the communities in which cable companies were allowed to run the lines of their monopolies through. The rule changes you and your commissioners are suggesting contradict the very intent of why local access / community media was created in the first place. With media conglomerates being allowed to own and homogenize more and more of the ways we consume news and media, access centers like ours are the ONLY place in which or local communities can view "hyper- local" content. If that funding is decreased or eliminated, so will community media centers such as AndoverTV. Though, that is exactly what large companies like Comcast and Verizon would love to have seen for years now. This is no secret.

Here in Andover, MA, we make extremely good use of PEG funding received from Comcast and Verizon. Funding which I'm sure you're aware is nothing but a pass-through fee to the subscribers. Giving back that finding to communities doesn't cost them a dime. Though through this rule change, you'll be allowing them to pocket money which was 100% intended to come BACK to the community. AndoverTV uses PEG cable funding to operate a modern HD studio inside Andover High School. Every year we provide for and help educate over 260 high school students per year through intro to TV, Advanced courses, and TV news. Our graduates have gone on to work at WHDH, NESN, NECN, WJAR, NBC Boston, HBO, WMUR, VH1, BET, Paramount Pictures, CBS, Disney, Ridley Scott productions, and AMC. Careers they could not have achieved without getting their training at a community media center funded by PEG funding.

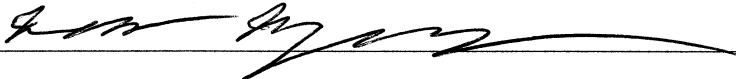
AndoverTV offers multiple workshops annually to help teach residents how to produce and create professional looking local content.

We also utilize our equipment and staff members to help countless area non-profits and community groups to help continue their community outreach and fund-raising missions.

Our 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,
Wess Murphy



Executive Director, AndoverTV

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Charlie Baker, Governor of Massachusetts
Elizabeth Warren, Senator
Edward Markey, Senator
Niki Tsongas, Congresswoman