



Office of the Selectmen

54 South Avenue
Whitman, Massachusetts 02382-0426

Francis J. Lynam, Town Administrator

November 7, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our concern about and opposition to 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.

The Town of Whitman has a long term relationship with Whitman Hanson Community Access (WHCA). Viewers in Whitman benefit regularly by being able to stay informed through WHCA's community programming not just in government events, but also in the coverage and promotion of the many political, historic, educational, church/religious, and other civic groups and events in Whitman and Hanson. Whitman's town government has specifically benefited from the televising of all Whitman Selectmen's meetings and our annual town meetings, as well as informing viewers/voters each year about new candidates for public office.

Within our town government WHCA routinely works with the town of Whitman's many departments, boards, and committees including but not limited to; Police, Fire, Emergency Management, Public Works, Recreation, Council On Aging, Veterans Services, Cultural Council, Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Planning Board, Housing Authority, Board of Health, Technology, and of course our local schools & public library.

This local presence enables the residents of Whitman 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 to not adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



Francis J. Lynam
Town Administrator

CC: Board of Selectmen
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

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