

November 11, 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 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.

In Vermont, local public access TV plays an important role in informing and educating our citizens about their communities and state through school and select board meetings, church services, candidate forums, and other informational programs. They also share life enhancing information and social studies documentaries. Elders or transportation-challenged people unable to attend school events or services are able to watch school performances and keep abreast of goings on in their communities instead of being completely isolated. NWAccess TV has a lending library of filming gear that allow people to develop skills and capture footage important in one regard or another. It plays an important role not filled by any other media and would not exist without the funding that this proposed rule will usurp.

The presence of Vermont's 25 Community Access Centers enables the residents of Vermont 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 – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

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,
Charen Fegard
VT State Representative-Elect
Franklin-5 District

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