November 12, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Federal Communications Commission

455 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing 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.

I am a member of the Vermont House of Representatives, representing the towns of Sheldon and Swanton, Vermont in the extreme northwestern portion of the State of Vermont. I have been personally involved with the local PEG organization, Northwest Access TV, since its inception. I have personally used their facilities either directly or indirectly as a guest on community affairs programing and have served as a member of their board in the early days of the organization.

Northwest Access Television provides the residents of the area an invaluable service to view and at times participate in public meetings such as school board, local governing bodies and public information programming that they otherwise would not have an opportunity to see in other media outlets.

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.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in my communities and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brian K. Savage

Franklin-4 (Sheldon/Swanton)

17 Linda Ave.

Swanton, VT 05488

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner

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