

Nov 13, 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 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.

Over the past 8 years I have been actively involved with our local access station: ICAM (in Ipswich, MA). I currently host two programs that play regularly on the Public station in our community. One of my programs '*COA Today*' supports the Senior Citizens of the community of Ipswich. COA stands for the "Council on Aging", which is an organization that advocates for Ipswich senior citizens, which make up over 30% of our town population. The show and my interaction with the Senior Center helps communicate and promote programs and services that support independence, health and well-being to residents 60 years and up. This programs is an invaluable asset to this population, giving them access from their homes to information, presentations, entertainment, and various educational opportunities.

This local presence of a Cable Access Station enables residents 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 Cable Access (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,
Paul Valcour

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