



Charter Township of Orion

2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360 • www.oriontownship.org • (248) 391-0304

October 25, 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.

Community Television has been thriving in Lake Orion, Michigan for over 30 years and now it's at risk with the proposed rules changes. Our community of over 38,000, are active users of the Public Access, Education, and Government channels. Weekly, monthly, and quarterly programs are produced to this day totaling 800 programs per year. Franchise fees also support our local school district's award winning video production program to the tune of \$250,000 in the last two years alone. These students now work throughout the U.S. as producers, reporters, and content creators. These are real careers that were started with cable franchise fees and PEG funding.

Besides local programs, our local media center supports non-profits, religious institutions, food drives, community awareness projects, public safety videos, candidate nights, training videos, media literacy camps, newscasts, and gavel to gavel government meeting coverage that draws over 19,000 views per year.

This local presence enables the residents of Orion Township 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Barnett", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Barnett, Supervisor
Charter Township of Orion

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