

October 29, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ashland is one of the smaller towns in the Metrowest region on Massachusetts. We have a highly rated school system, a busy town government, a popular farmer's market, many historical landmarks, and one of the most active cable stations in the area. Ashland Cable, or WACA TV, has three television channels, a public channel, which airs shows produced by the community, an education channel that airs programming related to the Ashland Public School System, and a government channel that shows both the live coverage and replays of government meetings. In an average month, WACA TV spent 46% of their time filming public content, 21% filming educational programming, and 33% of their time filming government meetings.

No matter what the subject matter is, WACA TV can be found at most town events providing residents with local news, arts, or school events. Some examples are the annual tree lighting ceremony, every home football game, the Boston Marathon as it runs through Ashland, productions by the Ashland Community Theater, government meetings, and local church services. Along with WACA TV's on location filming, the studio allows local community members to come film television shows or record podcasts that highlight issues or topics they care about. Some of the more popular programs include cooking shows, political shows, shows with local business owners, a children's reading show, and an award-winning bi-monthly news program.

WACA TV is a source of both information and entertainment for Ashland residents. Right now, the Ashland High School football team has advanced to the semi-finals for the first time in a very long time. If we did not cover these games, then parents and grandparents would miss out on this momentous occasion unless they were physically at the game. And the same can be said for other school events, like graduation or the induction to the National Honors Society. WACA TV is there to cover events, not only to preserve the moment for future generations, but to also create a deeper sense of community involvement.

This local presence enables the residents of our town 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 black ink, appearing to be 'AR' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Alison Rose

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