

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable	)	MB Docket No. 05-311
Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended	)	
by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and	)	
Competition Act of 1992	)	

**COMMENTS OF EASTON COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION**

Easton Community Access Television (ECAT) appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the Second Further Notice and Proposed Rulemaking ("FNPRM") in the above-referenced docket. We operate a community media organization in Easton, Massachusetts. We are responsible for the administration of 3 local access channels on both Comcast and Verizon. Easton has about 7,200 subscribers to cable systems. We produced over 900 hours of local programs of municipal meetings, community events, school related programs and public access in 2017. We are opposed to the tentative conclusion in the FNPRM that cable-related in-kind contributions, such as those that allow our programming to be viewed on the cable system, are franchise fees.

The reduction in franchise fees would eradicate our primary funding stream. The potential assignment of franchise fees to other in-kind obligations of the community channels would drain our budget and cripple our ability to deliver local programming and information that is a lifeline for Easton. It will leave the Town without the resources it needs to preserve a local form of community communication in the future. Our municipal meetings provide an unmatched

transparency in civic affairs in Easton. A town rich in history, Easton Community Access Television offers programing that illuminates the past, present and future of this special community. Without a platform dedicated to localism Eastonites are left in silos of social media and many others, such as the elderly completely cut off from community affairs. ECAT is essential to the community and the primary source of local information for

We reject the implication in the FNPRM that PEG programming is for the benefit of the local franchising authority (LFA) or a third-party PEG provider, rather than for the public or the cable consumer. As demonstrated above, Easton Community Access Television provides valuable local programming that is not otherwise available on the cable system or in other modes of video delivery such as satellite. Yet the Commission tentatively concludes that non-capital PEG requirements should be considered franchise fees because they are, in essence, taxes imposed for the benefit of LFAs or their designated PEG providers. By contrast, the FNPRM tentatively concludes that build-out requirements are not franchise fees because they are not contributions to the franchising authority. The FNPRM then requests comment on “other requirements besides build-out obligations that are not specifically for the use or benefit of the LFA or an entity designated the LFA and therefore should not be considered contributions to an LFA.”<sup>1</sup> PEG programming fits squarely into the category of benefits that do not accrue to the LFA or its designated access provider, yet the Commission concludes without any discussion of the public benefits of local programming that non-capital PEG-related provisions benefit the LFA or its designee rather than the public at large.]

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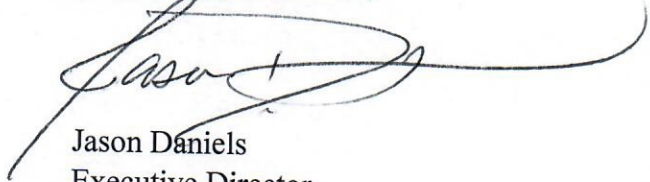
<sup>1</sup> FNPRM ¶ 21.

We invite the Commission to view for themselves the important benefits provided by local content in PEG programming.

The links below are an example of some of the hundreds of videos we have produced over the years - <https://bit.ly/2qMjcoY> - Veteran's Day Parade 2018 or <https://bit.ly/2zces0f> Hidden in Plain Sight, a program from a non profit, Easton Wings of Hope, that is empowering parents to conquer substance abuse. Other examples can be found archived on our web page at <http://www.eastoncat.org>.

We appreciate the opportunity to add to the record in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Daniels", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Daniels  
Executive Director  
Easton Community Access Television  
50 Oliver Street  
North Easton, 02356

November 9, 2018