



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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November 14, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. 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 No. 05-311

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the resident of the Town of Sharon, MA, the Board of Selectmen has serious concerns regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposal, which could have significant negative impacts on our residents, town government, local businesses and community organizations that utilize our public, educational and government access (PEG) channels operated by Sharon Community Television (SCTV).

SCTV covers Board of Selectmen, School Committee and other governmental boards' meetings throughout the year, helping local government be more transparent and accessible to our residents. Sharon has an active citizenry, due in part to the hard work SCTV does to ensure that as many meetings of our governmental bodies are recorded. Through SCTV's work, citizens hold local leaders accountable for their works and actions, and they work with local, state and county officials to inform the public about events and important information. As a result, SCTV makes people feel more connected to their neighbors and their town.

The staff and volunteers at SCTV work tirelessly to ensure that their diverse, locally produced programming covers a wide cross-section of the community, from sporting events to musical performances to government meetings to local educational programming. They raise the visibility of community organizations that do good works for our residents (and beyond). SCTV is an integral part of our community and would be severely hindered if they lose a major portion of their funding. Our 18,000 residents value the essential services that SCTV provides to Sharon.

Please maintain the current franchise fee structure and recognize the authority of cities and towns to control the public rights of way.

Sincerely,

Frederic E. Turkington, Jr.
Town Administrator, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen