The Honorable Ajit V. Pai, Chairman November 13, 2018

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.

Waltham is made up a very diverse socio-economic, racial and religious population of about 65,000 residents. There is a vibrant downtown, healthy housing market and a large corporate workforce expanding each year.

Our local cable station Waltham Community Access Channel (WCAC) is a vital part of Waltham.  There are many popular shows that allow residents to stay current in the community. With a large community like Waltham it is becoming more important for residents to be able to watch city government meetings, community organizations events, updates for seniors, information about infrastructure and budget hearings just to name a few.  Without this communication outlet available to our residents we would not be able to be aware of what is going on in the city. Informed residents are happier living in this community.

This local presence enables the residents of our city 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,

Erica Young

Executive Director

Waltham Boys & Girls Club

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