

**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 WILMINGTON COMMUNITY TELEVISION**

Wilmington Community Television (WCTV) appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) in the above-referenced docket. For more than 30 years, WCTV has served the community of Wilmington, Massachusetts, which has a population of just over 23,000. By the latest count, nearly 8,000 households in town have cable television. WCTV not only produces live coverage of government meetings, it also covers community events and school activities like concerts, sports and science fairs. WCTV is a platform for local producers to reach a local audience and our organization works with non-profits across the community to educate the public about the good work that goes on in Wilmington. We write in strong opposition to the tentative conclusion in the FNPRM that the value of cable franchise obligations can be deducted from franchise fees.

Since WCTV’s inception in 1987, Wilmington has gone through multiple rounds of franchise renewals and changes in cable operators. In our community, all money which comes via franchise fees is directed to WCTV. During the town’s latest negotiation with Comcast in 2017, there was no discussion on in-kind contributions and the contract was negotiated based on a

historical understanding of the 5% cap, which has never included deductions for in-kind contributions.

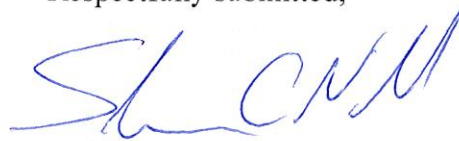
Based on our understanding of this new rule, WCTV stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars each year, perhaps more, if it's implemented. As an organization which takes careful steps in creating an annual budget each autumn, it's frustrating to hear that future funding could be impacted by arbitrary deductions related to channel air time or other in-kind services which are named by cable providers. Such a drastic change will inevitably reduce our staff resources and impact the amount of work we can do in the community.

As a non-profit community media center, we serve the residents of Wilmington. When determining where funding goes, we always question how the investment will help the community. The programming we produce and the tools we purchase to create programming is all for the public benefit. Our studio is open to the public, serving as a platform for anyone in Wilmington to get their message to viewers. It's important that our facility have easy-to-use equipment and staff who are readily available for training. We reject the implication in the FNPRM that PEG programming is for the benefit of the local franchising authority (LFA) or the PEG provider, rather than the public.

WCTV programming is specifically for a Wilmington audience and can't be found anywhere else. We work in the schools, in Town Hall and are regularly at community events on the Town Common. Our residents have come to expect video content related to their community. Our reading of the FNPRM seems to indicate that the commission does see a difference between benefits to the LFAs and benefits to the community. This is noted in language related to build-out requirements specified in contracts. WCTV programming seems to also fit into this category as a public benefit, as our programming serves the entire community, not the LFA or our center.

In conclusion, WCTV urges the commission to reconsider these proposed rule changes. While they will hurt public access centers nationwide, the larger impact will be felt across communities that will miss out on local content that they simply can't get anywhere else.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Neville', is positioned above the typed name and address.

Shaun Neville  
WCTV Executive Director  
10 Waltham St.  
Wilmington, MA 01887

November 13, 2018