



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**OFFICE OF SENATOR JULIAN CYR**  
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 218, BOSTON, 02133

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November 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
455 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am contacting you regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) recent vote to proceed with the item, "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 Number 05-311).

I write in strong opposition to this proposal, which would erode existing agreements between Local Franchising Authorities (LFA) and cable companies to fund critical local services provided by public, educational, or governmental (PEG) cable access television stations.

I represent Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket in the Massachusetts Senate. Across my district, there are nearly a dozen cable access/PEG stations that provide citizens critical access to local public meetings and information, and valued community based programming. These stations also provide employment for dozens of people, and valuable internships and volunteer opportunities for even more. They are an essential public resource, and the limited resources they receive from agreements with cable companies are funds well spent.

If implemented, many of the stations I represent fear that 'FCC Docket Number 05-311' would cripple cable access stations across my district and would reduce critical transparency and access to important local community and government meetings. I hear frequently from constituents that they feel price gouged by cable providers; this proposal seems nothing more than a giveaway by the federal government to profitable and large cable companies, many of whom have a monopoly in the marketplace.

In Massachusetts, I'm proud that the State Senate passed a bill this year to require cable access/PEG stations be offered in HD, like nearly every other station offered by cable operators. Meanwhile, by considering this proposal, the federal government is aiming to gut the funding that keeps our local cable access stations afloat. This is a shame.

I urge you to reject this proposal and leave local control in place. The existing funding structure for cable access/PEG stations works for citizens across the United States and furthers government transparency. I hope that will be your guiding focus as you deliberate, not the profit margins of corporate cable companies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Ay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long vertical stroke at the end.

CC:

The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner