November 13, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai

Chairman Federal Communications Commission

455 12th Street, Southwest Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express my 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. As the current Co-president and Voter Service Chairperson for our Andover North Andover League of Women Voters, I have relied on Andover TV to record candidates’ events, public information forums, and programs like our Running for Office Workshop. Andover TV is a valuable community partner and vehicle for making information available to our citizens. This information easily helps residents become informed so that they can go out and vote during elections and Town Meeting. With all of our lives being so busy, being able to watch a program whenever we would like or tune in during the live broadcast is so critical to remaining informed and engaged. Andover TV’s local presence enables the residents of Andover to watch uniquely local programming about their community that they would not see otherwise, enjoy local events, and get informed on 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. I 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,

Heather L. McNeil

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner

The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner