

November 14, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing 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.

The citizens of South Portland, Maine, are actively involved in local politics and rely on their public access stations to keep them informed on current issues that affect them. Being able to readily access information on local public, educational, and government channels at low or no cost is crucial for them to stay engaged with local government and help our citizens and leaders make sound political decisions.

Many senior citizens in South Portland, who can not readily leave their homes to attend city council or other municipal meetings, can easily view these meeting from the comfort of their homes. Similarly, busy parents and family members can watch high school sports and stay informed with school board proceedings. Local activist groups can voice their concerns on current political topics of interest.

This local presence enables the residents of South Portland, Maine, in Cumberland County 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,

Cynthia Marie Czubryt

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