



SCIENCE FOR THE PUBLIC

modern science for modern citizens

November 29, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman

The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner

The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest

Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

On behalf of Science for the Public, I support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") and disapprove 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.

Our organizational mission to provide accurate information about science-related issues and to promote science literacy in the general public is wholly dependent on the assistance, equipment, facilities, and media training that we receive at no cost from our local PEG access channel, Belmont Media Center. In addition, our programming, produced at our PEG access TV studio and which features work from leading scientists and researchers from MIT, Harvard and many other institutions, is also distributed around the world by WGBH's Forum Network.

This is only made possible because of the franchise fees that come to the Town of Belmont via local cable franchising agreements, which fund the operations of our PEG access station.

The FCC's proposed rulemaking will do great harm to our educational organization and to our very ability to function as an organization, and by extension to the public.

Belmont Community Media Center enables the residents of Belmont, MA 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,



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