

December 3, 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 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Catamount Access Television and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA) to 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.

I live in Bennington, Vermont. CAT-TV serves towns in Bennington County, cablecasting meetings of the Select Boards in Bennington and surrounding towns, covering meetings of the area Boards of Education, sharing important area news through panels and discussions with local leaders, of both government agencies and non-profits and interested citizens. For people like me who cannot get out attending these meetings, CAT-TV brings these important meetings into our living rooms, allowing us be involved with our community. This is an invaluable service. CAT-TV also allows us to come to the studio and share our views. For several years I led a discussion of local happenings on a panel, CAT-TV allows our community to come together to enjoy special occasions such as parades, holiday celebrations, church services and more. It is an important and essential community service that encompasses many aspects of our democracy here in Southern Vermont. I view CAT-TV as democracy in action.

This local presence enables the residents of our Bennington, Bennington 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 Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,
Judy Murphy,

Former CAT-TV Board Member
Board Member, Second Chance Animal Center, Arlington, VT
336 Chester Knoll Drive, Bennington, VT 05201