



**TOWN OF NEWFANE**  
OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD  
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December 5, 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 Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID. 1113560010350) and 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.

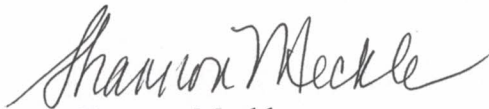
Brattleboro Community Television has recorded the Town of Newfane's Selectboard meetings since 2012. Our community has come to rely on the recording of these meetings to stay apprised of the actions of their local government. The elderly population, the disabled, and the busy working family depend on being able to see what's going on without attending the meetings in person.

I receive daily correspondence from our constituents who've watched the meeting and wish to give their input and simply can't get to a meeting to do so. BCTV's presence has increased public involvement and led the Selectboard to make careful decisions based on the wishes of their voters. It would be devastating, especially to our formerly active townspeople who are now homebound, if they couldn't stay involved.

This local presence enables the residents of Newfane to create and 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 - something that was never the intent of the Act - and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shannon Meckle". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Shannon Meckle  
Administrative Assistant