



Town of Dummerston

1523 Middle Road East Dummerston, Vermont 05346

5 December 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 th 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.

Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Television and Community Media is very important in a rural town such as Dummerston, Vermont. BCTV is our local community media. They film and then air all of our regular meetings, in addition to some of the more significant special meetings. It's a primary mode of communication with our community. Many people who would not otherwise be familiar with town issues watch Selectboard meetings on TV. There is no doubt that airing our meetings on TV increases engagement in town activities. Older people who cannot drive at night and parents of young children who are not available to attend evening meetings are two examples of residents who cannot attend meetings in person. BCTV provides a wide range of programming keeping us all informed about new initiatives, local services and town issues.

This local presence enables the residents of Dummerston to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest. 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,

Jerelyn Wilson, elected official
For the Dummerston Selectboard

Telephone: (802) 257-1496

FAX: (802) 257-4671