



QUEENS PUBLIC TELEVISION

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December 7, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of 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

We are writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. We oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

My Borough of Queens, New York is the most ethnically diverse community in the United States. There are nearly two hundred languages and dialects spoken here. Travel from neighborhood to neighborhood and you can hear Italian, Urdu, Russian, Hebrew, Polish, Spanish, Cantonese, Hindi, Portuguese, Farsi and Tagalog to name but a few. There are many mainstream cable channels, yet it is still difficult to find programs in the many languages that are spoken by the residents of this community. When these communities need information concerning voter registration, free healthcare screenings and immigration policy updates, the only place where they can find that information, in their own language, is on Queens Public Television. If these multilingual programs were to disappear, many of our viewers would be at a disadvantage.

Public television is an oasis for people seeking information about *their* community in *their* language. Mainstream television cannot cater to the needs of such a diverse community; therefore, it is up to local independent producers to create such programming. Producers

create programs that both inform and entertain. Foreign language viewers can keep abreast with what is going on locally and with news about what is going on in their country of origin. Without these multilingual programs, many of our viewers would lose their connection to the larger community and the services that are available for them. This is one of the many reasons why community television needs your support. For thirty years, QPTV has provided an opportunity for the residents of Queens to break bread together through the medium of television. We are a community learning center empowering people to be more civic minded and to have the power to improve their community.

This local presence encourages viewers in Queens, New York to watch cable television as was intended by the 1984 Cable Act – by enhancing local voices, serving local viewers and strengthening our local democracy. By defining “in-kind” support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local and state authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels which was never the intent of the Act.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Clifford Jacobs

Programming and Access Services Manager
Queens Public Television