

*The Collaborative promotes the development of a healthy involved*

*community supporting substance free youth in a caring environment.*

12/7/18

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 the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) 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.

The Collaborative is a small non-profit serving the areas that GNAT produces and shows programming. We work to educate the community about substance use prevention and promote healthy youth and communities. The Collaborative hosts an information program with local experts in these areas of health. We use youth to help produce PSA’s. We use the services of GNAT to increase the health and youth outreach in our community. Without PEG Access Television and Community Media our outreach to these small Vermont communities would be severely limited. Additionally, this service allows us to reach into the living rooms with information for families who cannot get out to events due to lack of transportation or limits to mobility. GNAT services are essential to the community outreach of The Collaborative.

This local presence enables the residents of Londonderry, Weston and all of 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,

Maryann Morris

Executive Director

The Collaborative