

Dec. 7, 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 St., Southwest Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s Sept. 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.

Davis Media Access (DMA) in Davis, Calif., provides public and educational television services to Davis and surrounding areas, and works with the City on government access. DMA provides a vital communication link for no-profit organizations, churches, musicians and arts organizations, schools, local government, and a vast array of citizens. Through its programming DMA informs, enlightens, entertains and educates viewers, and helps them stay connected.

DMA is particularly notable for its support of the arts and music communities in Davis. Through KDRT 95.7 FM, the low-power FM station DMA launched in 2004, all kinds of local and touring musicians have access to air time, community gigs, and exposure they would not otherwise have. DMA’s local program archive is filled with years of shows highlighting artists and art projects, and DMA’s staff provides leadership for the area’s Arts Alliance

This local presence enables the residents of Davis to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them, which 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 strongly support the comments made by thousands of individuals, local and county governments, nonprofit groups and organizations such as the Alliance for Community Media, NATOA and others.

The arguments in favor of the Proposed Rulemaking do not stand up to even a minimal level of scrutiny. This Proposed Rulemaking should be rejected in favor of protecting PEG channels in communities all across the country.

Sincerely,
Wendy Weitzel and Scott Wetzlich
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Davis, CA 95618