

December 6, 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, SW
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

Please accept this letter in support of the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (BCTV) (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.

BCTV has been instrumental in making available to the general public the content of many of the educational and cultural events in this community. One example is the filming of the Vermont Humanities Council sponsored First Wednesday's Series. These events are held at libraries throughout Vermont. Here is a link to the videos of the events held at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro: <http://bit.ly/2RJJCJIO>

In/about 2009, at the urging of a former Selectboard member, I became involved with facilitating the Brattleboro Citizens' Breakfast presentations. These events could range from the discussion of topics affecting the community, highlighting a specific organization's efforts to seek solutions or enable candidates for public office to make their views known. The breakfasts, open to the public, are held in a public facility. Again, BCTV was instrumental in getting this content to a wider audience. A link can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2G13hgT>

This local presence enables the residents of our Brattleboro and surrounding Windham Co Towns 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,

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cc Hon. Peter Welch
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