

# DAVID BLISTEIN

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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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Brattleboro Vermont is a close-knit town of about 12,000 representing a diverse range of ages, education and socio-economic groups. Many of the people who work and go to school here come from surrounding towns in Windham County, all of which can boast a vibrant civilian-governance model, including school, planning, and zoning boards as well as annual town meetings and more. BCTV covers virtually one of these meetings as well as local events such as the world-famous Strolling of the Heifers.

In addition, the station makes it possible for any resident to produce his or her own shows and offers production opportunities and internships to local students.

This local presence enables the residents of Windham 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,



David Blistein  
Brattleboro resident since 1980