

St. Albans City School

29 Bellows Street
St. Albans, Vermont 05478
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Principal
JOAN CAVALLO

Asst. Principal
STACIE ROULEAU

December 8, 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, 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.

I live and work in St. Albans, Vermont. It is a small community with around 10,000 people. We are a working class community that has a strong sense of pride and commitment to our family, friends and neighbors. I have been a seventh and eighth grade teacher at St. Albans City School for 25 years. Over the past eight years I have worked closely with Northwest Access TV, our local Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access Television and Community Media Center, to provide opportunities for my students from Team USA, a middle school team. We have completed a variety of projects over this time span. Students create a news program for the school using the Northwest Access equipment and studio. Students are exposed to the entire process of creating a video. They can be seen planning and organizing interviews with local community members and taking charge of their education. Students must rely on their communication skills throughout their work. From setting up interviews, covering a news event, editing video, and publishing content they are working on developing skills that any future employer would desire. The staff at Northwest Access TV have always welcomed my students and me to utilize the resources they provide our community. They have added the students work from their news programs and candidate forums to the recording of guest speakers we have in our classroom. My students have also become a tradition during election day coverage in

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November. Students head out to the polling sites to interview candidates and voters in hopes of getting some footage that can be used during the amazing live show that Northwest Access TV crew puts on each year. In addition to covering local politics, my students have taken part in video contests offered through the PEG network. The relationship is a healthy connection for everyone involved and has made a positive impact on our small community.

My students have been fortunate to have such a resource in our community. The state of Vermont expects all students in grades 7-12 to attain competency with their transferable skills by the end of the public school education. Transferable skills are broken into the following categories: *Clear and Effective Communication, Creative and Practical Problem Solving, Informed and Integrative Thinking, Responsible and Involved Citizenship, and Self Direction.* Each student is expected to provide evidence of completing each school throughout their time in school. The Team USA and Northwest Access TV relationship has provided an opportunity for students to address these important skills. Without a doubt I know my students could use their work with our partner to clearly show they have attained these standards. Some examples of students' products are posted on our [Team USA page](#). I could not ask for a better opportunity to get students involved in the community they live in. Losing or limiting a resource such as Northwest Access TV would be devastating to my school team and to our local community. I encourage you to consider measures that will assure their presence for years to come.

This local presence enables the residents of our St. Albans City, Town and Franklin County area 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,

John Cioffi
Teacher Team USA
St. Albans City School
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