

December 8, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of 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

I am writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. I oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

I have been a Director of Marblehead Community Access and Media, Inc, for the past three years and during that time I have learned the value provided to several under-served groups in our community by the effort of its staff. Local news coverage, Town meetings, school sports and kids tv are just some of the locally produced programs which would never be available without the support of MHTV and the financing provided by the PEG fee on cable bills. I have also received training in equipment use and produced some shows on my own, such as coverage of our Council On Aging Men's Group luncheon speakers. There are others in our community who have done the same.

This local presence encourages viewers in our town to watch cable television as was intended by the 1984 Cable Act – by enhancing local voices, serving local viewers and strengthening our local democracy. By defining “in-kind” support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local and state authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels which was never the intent of the Act.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. I ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Thompson
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Marblehead MA 01945