

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to disagree with the rule changes proposed by the Federal Communications Commission, in which cable providers would be able to count the value of the PEG stations themselves toward the fee they pay to local communities.

This act would leave communities truncated, either having to allocate more local funding to keep the stations operational or face the prospect that the programming offerings would be severely curtailed.

“The Internet and Television Association, a trade association representing cable and broadcast television entities, argues that the current system has imposed an ‘unnecessary burden’ on cable providers and is slowing the rollout of broadband access. They go on to argue that the proposed restructuring would help counter these issues.” This argument is outdated, with little understanding of branding. Loyal customers recognize when corporations give back. Passing this proposal will bypass the intention of community TV —locally-focused journalism & education. In today’s climate with fake news, social media, and corruption, we need now more than ever local journalism in multimedia.

This move would hamper free speech and the effort to document our challenges, voices, and decisions in multimedia for future generations. Both full- and part-time residents keep tabs on local government through PEG stations. In addition,

PEG stations provide unique opportunities for area residents; everyone from senior citizens to teenagers can receive training on being on-air talent, or filming, editing or producing a television program.

Preserving such coverage and opportunities seems particularly important at a time where online content is replacing virtually every other source of news and entertainment.

You should consider investing more in community PEG stations, not cutting funding. I urge you to see past your numbers and recognize the potential growth. There is a better solution. Do not pass this proposed regulation; if passed, it would cripple cable access stations across the Cape and Islands as well as the U.S. This is your unique advantage - please make it work for everyone.

Thank you,

Maddie Hjulstrom
PO Box 706
Cataumet, MA 02534