



Thurston Community Media

440 Yaeger Way SW Suite C
Olympia WA 98502

December 10, 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,

I write on behalf of the members and board of directors of Thurston Community Media in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA"). We also want to express our strong opposition to the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25th Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket 05-311, *Implementation of Section 621 of the Cable Television Consumers Protection and Competition Act of 1992*.

Thurston Community Media is located in Thurston County, WA, delivering services to the County and Cities of Lacey, Tumwater and the capital city of Olympia. Our community does not have broadcast channels. The network affiliates for our region are located in Seattle, 60 miles away. For more than 30 years, Thurston Community Media (formerly Thurston Community Television) has been connecting our communities with programming about local issues, government meetings, arts and events, social justice messages, tele-courses, and so much more. The fact that we exist enables our community to watch programming produced by local people, with local messages, for our local audience, something no other television resource provides. We also provide media production tools and training that are a catalyst for civic engagement. Individuals learn skills that can help them in the workforce. Nonprofit groups can reach the community and their supporters. Youth learn critical digital media literacy skills to make them more discriminating media consumers. Enhancing local voices, serving local needs, and strengthening local democracy are the intent of the PEG provisions in the Cable Act of 1984.

An overly broad definition of 'franchise fee' that includes in-kind support will potentially strip millions of dollars of revenue from our local jurisdictions, dollars that support the PEG operations and many other government services. It will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators, forcing the communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG Channels, something that was never the intent of the Act. Our community deserves to be fairly compensated by a cable operator that generates an estimated \$70 million +/- in gross cable TV revenue annually by using our public rights-of-way to conduct their business. Our jurisdictions deserve to have their right to local control recognized and maintained so they can appropriately manage our public resources in the best interest of the citizens of Thurston County.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others around the country by choosing **not** to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Deborah Vinsel, CEO

cc: Congressman Denny Heck, Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray