

December 10, 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 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") 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.

Fall River, MA is a community of just over 88,000 residents. We are a Gateway City, with a diverse ethnic and low-income population. Educational attainment is below the remainder of the state. As a result, we have a high cable television penetration rate. For many, our three community television stations are the primary source of local information.

Residents engage with their local government through coverage of Fall River City Council and School Committee meetings; they celebrate the success of local students through our educational access channel. Our Portuguese and Cambodian communities use our public access channel to share the news and information from their neighborhood communities. Our local churches use our channel to share their faith with like-minded residents. Without these outlets, we would not have an informed community. It is vital that they continue.

This local presence enables the residents of Fall River watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. 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 channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



Director, Fall River Community Media