

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 to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) 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.

Guilford is in the southern part of Vermont, outside of Brattleboro and is served by Brattleboro Community Television, a Public, Educational and Government Access television station. We have no other local television station. WCAX is at the top of the state and we rarely hear about Southern Vermont, sometimes they don’t even show Brattleboro on the weather map. BCTV gives us the news in its raw form the way CSPAN does. We can watch our public meetings that obviously allows for more citizen input into the running of our small towns. BCTV shows town selectboard and town meetings in 7 towns in southern Vermont and like I said in a media dessert like southern Vermont BCTV brings important information to the public.

Access to information is very important in the computer age and so is access to disseminating information. BCTV has been teaching people to create content for decades, allowing for citizen journalism and encouraging freedom of speech.

This local presence enables the residents of my town, **Guilford, Vermont** to create and 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 – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

I 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,
Robin Mide
Community Producer
BCTV Executive Director 1999-2003
robinmide@comcast.net