

12/11/18

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 am writing to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) and to oppose 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.

As an employee of the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, I can attest first hand knowledge of the benefits and services their PEG channels provide to the community of Northern Kentucky. Many of our viewers are older and/or cannot be present for city council meetings, due to work or other commitments, that effect their cities. Also, many are unaware, not familiar, or have access to either the internet or a computer. and can therefore not stream these meetings. Additionally, there are many who get their news regarding their city from these meetings as opposed to local newspapers/newsletters. Therefore, the only way these citizens are able to learn of changes and laws that could effect both them and their community is through broadcastings on the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky’s PEG channels.

Our coverage of local high school sporting events are also beneficial for students hoping to use our footage to help secure them sports scholarships for college. Copies of our sports, and government, coverages are sold at request. Finally, this current proposal would not only effect the community in terms of awareness and opportunities, it would also effect the income and possible employment of many people at the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky.

Our local Public, Educational, and Governmental, (PEG) Access channels provide a wide range of local programming about our community, which is a valuable service to Northern Kentucky residents, community organizations, and viewers. Our local PEG TV studio at the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, also provides access to a professional studio, editing and field equipment for local residents, schools, and community organizations, who

would not otherwise have access to such facilities, as well as much needed training and guidance.

Local PEG programming includes coverage of high school and college football and basketball games, swimming and diving and other sports, as well as many community events. The PEG channels air numerous local government meetings every month, as well as Northern Kentucky election programs and results. The channels also broadcast local music and entertainment, documentaries, and public affairs shows, as well as information about local community service organizations and agencies, and issues of interest to Northern Kentucky.

Promoting such diversity of views and information through local PEG programming was one of congress' specific stated intents of the Cable Act. The FCC's proposed FNPRM goes against this stated intent, and would force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, which would cripple and very likely eliminate the PEG channels in most communities across the country, since most cities will not be able to afford the loss in fees. The loss of franchise fees would also eliminate the main source of operational funding for PEG channels in most communities. This has never been the way the law worked for decades and was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and urge the FCC to protect PEG channels and funding in our community and others by choosing not to adopt the Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Sincerely,

Brian Costello