I write to oppose the Trump Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal of a rule that threatens to undermine public access television stations across the country and has serious implications for our local democracy.Since 1984, cable companies like Comcast have paid "franchise fees" in exchange for the use of public rights of way. These essential fees are used to support our public access stations that cover local meetings and events, offer me and residents in my area of the country free equipment and training to produce our own programs, and provide Vermonters free cable television channel time and an Internet platform to make their voices heard. I strongly oppose the Trump FCC's proposal that would allow companies like Comcast to claim "in kind" services related to providing public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels, and to deduct that amount from the franchise fees they pay. Thus, I STRONGLY oppose Trump Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal.

John A. Widness