

December 12, 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,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) 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.

As the leader of a local synagogue and a member of The Interfaith Council of the Northshire, I have seen the great benefit of GNAT, Greater Northshire Access Television. From broadcasting local events and meetings, connecting our community, and providing education and hands on technology training, this local, public TV station fills a need that no other broadcaster can fill. Our greater faith community has relied on GNAT to help tell the story of our local work which among other things, helps to provide for the basic needs of those who are less fortunate, and helps seniors in Southern Vermont remain independent and connected (with our program Neighbor to Neighbor). Civic awareness and involvement is always enhanced and supported by GNATs presence and work. In a small community like ours the local station is one of us, and supports all of us.

This local presence enables the residents of our town to 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 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 Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Cantor Scott Buckner, Israel Congregation of Manchester