



ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community."

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December 11, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our concern and disapproval at the positions expressed by the FCC in its Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Cable Franchising ("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).

The loss of revenue will end the schools and Abington CAM's ability to co-sponsor beneficial educational programming. Currently, students take a multimedia class which trains them to help create community content. This content is publishing of the democratic process, activities and proceedings of the schools, community events and local government.

This local presence encourages viewers in our town [Abington, Massachusetts, Plymouth County] to watch cable television as was intended by the 1984 Cable Act – by enhancing local voices, serving local viewers and strengthening our local democracy. By defining "in-kind" support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local and state authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels which was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope your actions protect PEG channels in our community and others.

Sincerely,

Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Abington CAM Board of Directors
Abington Board of Selectmen

The Abington Public School System is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, homelessness, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The contents of all publications are available upon request in languages other than English.