

December 10, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of 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

We are writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

We oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

As a private citizen and a City of Gresham employee working in communications, I witness the value of Public Educational and Government Access and community television—first hand. Our local community media center and staff provide some of the best, highest quality productions that inform and enhance the quality of life in our community. They give a voice to many minority groups that otherwise would not have a platform for discussion and deliberation. They cover local community events that involve the community’s families such as our annual (32 years) Teddy Bear Parade and children’s school performances. Sometimes, they are the only source of information on community services and events to keep people informed. I cannot imagine a community where there is no local access to broadcast and teach creative media and production skills to youth and the community at-large.

This local presence encourages viewers in Gresham, Oregon, the ability 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.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities if they opt for local channels, the FNPRM diminishes the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Kidby
Citizen of Gresham, Oregon
Communications Specialist, City of Gresham