

9 December 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner □ The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner  
The □ □ Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest □  
Washington, DC, 20544 □

Dear Chairman Pai,

We, the board of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, Vermont, a 450+ membership nonprofit that supports Brooks Memorial Library with programming and technology, are writing to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) 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.

The Friends, in collaboration with the Vermont Humanities Council, put on a free lecture series for the public called First Wednesdays. These programs, taught by university professors and authors, are funded by the contributions of many of Brattleboro’s larger businesses and regularly attract over 700 people a year. Brattleboro Community Television video-records the series and makes it available for free on their website, thus making a deeply appreciated contribution to the intellectual life of our community.

BCTV also video-records other important events at the library. Teaming up with BCTV provides our nonprofit with access to rich and nuanced resources.

The value of BCTV cannot be overstated in Windham County. From select board meetings to graduations, to the coverage of countless events, Representative Town Meeting and parades, to educating the public in how to make television — all of this is accomplished while spending no tax dollars.

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 – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

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,

Joyce Marcel, President  
Friends of Brooks Memorial Library  
224 Main Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301