

December 13, 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,

I write 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.

As Chair of the Brattleboro Planning Commission, I find that the public follows our proceedings via BCTV to a surprising degree, much more than in person attendance. I also watch the Selectboard on BCTV, either live or at a later time on demand. The service allows me to review the Town Budget for the Finance Committee. This service is valuable, I would say vital, to keeping our community connected and informed. Young families may not want to get a babysitter to go to a meeting, elderly may not want to go out at night –all across the community, we can stay informed citizens from our living rooms.

This local presence enables the residents of Brattleboro, Vermont to create and 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 – 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,

Elizabeth S. McLoughlin
Brattleboro, Vermont