12/13/2018

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,

We write to support the Comments of Catamount Access Television and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA) 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.

I represent the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. Catamount Access Television (CAT-TV) provides a critical service to our education community as well as our community at large. It covers school board and other education related meetings that provide our community stakeholders with vital information regarding school policies, action plans, events, and more. This allows our community to stay abreast of how our students are being served, even when they can’t physically attend meetings.

Another service that CAT-TV provides relates directly to our students and how they learn to become participating and valued members of our community by producing PSA’s that are relevant to students, parents, and others. They learn collaboration skills and civic awareness along with the technical and artistic skills it takes to produce high quality, video-based messages for our region. This is a direct result of CAT-TV’s commitment to the betterment of our learners, whose presence in our community is vital to its future.

This local presence enables the residents of our Bennington, Vermont 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,

Frank Barnes

Frank Barnes

Director of Educational Technology

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

246 South Stream Rd.

Bennington, VT 05201