

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING BOARD

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

dba - WAYCROSS COMMUNITY MEDIA

December 13, 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 oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in this proceeding because of their potential impacts on our community, and we support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

We serve four local governments in the Greater Cincinnati area with Public, Educational, and Government programming services. All four communities share the same access channels and Community Media Center.

It is clear that congress never intended that certain costs, including the channels themselves, be included in the 5% franchise fee cap. If this is implemented as written, the cable company could, potentially, charge all four communities separately (at whatever rate they choose) for the cost of each channel – thus receiving payment four times for each existing channel.

Congress, through the 1984 Cable Act, was concerned with localism – providing an outlet for local voices and local government. By defining “in-kind” support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local/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.



Chip Bergquist
Executive Director
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