



GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 12, 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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We are writing as a community organization to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. or BCTV (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.

BCTV is a highly respected organization and provides unparalleled service to its local community, Windham County, Vermont. The Guilford Community Church has seen the value in BCTV and contracts with it to film and archive our Sunday morning worship services so that congregants who are sick, homebound, disabled, or have scheduling conflicts may still participate in our worship services. BCTV films and archives countless community meetings, government meetings, and events throughout Windham County. This is critical accessibility for our community!

This local presence enables the residents of Windham County 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,

Lay Leader, Guilford Community Church, UCC