

# Andy Davis

Musician and Educator

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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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

In our rural area our public access channel is an essential source for participation in local civic affairs. By recording, broadcasting and archiving public meetings Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) enables all citizens to stay informed and to engage in public affairs. BCTV is truly a public gem. Their presence at public meetings, governmental hearings and countless non-profit cultural events lifts our entire community and provides access. That is the heart of this type of service. Undermining the funding for this programming goes against the democratic ideals of our nation and will lessen the vitality of our community.

This work of BCTV enables the residents of Brattleboro, Vermont - and a larger surrounding area - 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,

Andrew Davis