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.

Bennington, Vermont is a small community with no local commercial broadcast outlets. We are a diverse community with active members who contribute a wide spectrum of content to our local PEG Access station. There is Faith Based programming that allows the segment of our community that is mobility challenged to still be part of the congregation at our local churches. We have craft, cooking, music, and sporting programs that are all locally produced with the help of a very talented staff who act not just as producers, but as teachers. For me the crown is coverage of local government. Our station covers Town and school Board meetings for three communities. There is also locally produced content on issues important to our citizens.

This local presence enables the residents of our corner of Southern 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,

Jim Vires