

December 14, 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 the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) 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.

Public Access TV is **INVALUABLE**, especially here in rural areas where we are under-represented by broadcast and cable in local programming and news. In addition to meaningful and important programming that cover current events, culture, art and human interest, Public Access stations also allow groups and individuals to become multimedia content *producers*, not just consumers, providing opportunities for residents and students of every age to explore important and rewarding aspects of video and communications—which are is more vital in our culture and society than ever before. The loss of Public Access TV funding and availability will result in a lower quality of life, for those who rely on it, support it, create it and enjoy it. Period.

This local presence enables the residents of Bennington and Rutland Counties 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,

Christine Glade
Christine Glade Photography