

12/14/18

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 are writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. We oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

Public Educational and Government Access and community television is important. Providing the residents of Easton, Massachusetts with quality programming is important. I have worked covering local government meetings for ECAT for a few years now and I can tell you having the video coverage of meetings not every voter can attend available on tv and online for viewing is important to maintain a functioning democracy. It is as vital for local communities as C-SPAN is for national politics. Without an impartial neutral gavel-to-gavel coverage I fear many elected and appointed officials would not be held as accountable or held to uphold things such as campaign promises. Outside of the government sphere we provide coverage of many local church and religious programs that would not exist without organizations like ECAT. For many seniors programs like this are the only way they would be able to continue to be a part of their local church if something like mobility issues arise.

This benefit for people was intended when Congress set up the Cable Act. PEG Access does not solely benefit a local government or franchising authority: It benefits and strengthens the community as a whole. 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.

Yours sincerely, Joseph S. Boerman, Access Producer ECAT