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 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We 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.

Community access television is an important link to keeping democracy alive. Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) broadcasts (in some instances live) selectboard meetings from towns in Windham County, annual town meetings as well as planning board, school board, and other meetings. These broadcasts provide an opportunity for citizens to stay informed even when they can’t be present in person. In addition, BCTV broadcasts local cultural and religious events as well as lectures on a subjects ranging from local wildlife and geology to talks by scholars on local and national history and everything inbetween.

I understand that the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act was 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.

Sincerely,

Maya Hasegawa