



TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO

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December 12, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Re: Docket 05-311

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (file ID 1113560010350) and in strong opposition to 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.

The proposed rules would have a devastating impact on our local station, Brattleboro (Vermont) Community Television (BCTV), and similar stations around the country. BCTV has provided community media services to Brattleboro and surrounding towns for over 40 years. Serving 6,000 subscriber households, the station provides transparent coverage of local government meetings – including the Brattleboro selectboard – educational matters and community events, coverage that is available nowhere else.

BCTV's mission is to “promote civic engagement and transparency, and to empower community members to share their knowledge, views and creativity, without prejudice.” 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kate O'Connor, Chair
Brandie Starr, Vice Chair
Tim Wessel, Clerk
David Schoales
Shanta Lee Gander
Brattleboro Selectboard