

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.

The town of Wilton CT provides an invaluable service by informing the community of local events and issues which are mostly ignored by local and national media outlets. Our town is enabled by Public Educational and Government (PEG) Access and community television and would significantly be disadvantaged with the tentative conclusions recently offered by the FCC.

This local presence encourages viewers in Wilton to watch cable television as was intended by the 1984 Cable Act – by enhancing local voices, serving local viewers and strengthening our local democracy. By defining “in-kind” support in an overly broad fashion, the rule making will shift the fair balance between local and state authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels which was never the intent of the Act.

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. Furthermore, it would create a financial bias, preying upon the subscribers’ decision to pay for what the Cable Act intended to be included as part of the subscription agreement. We ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Boehme

Municipal Appointee

Town of Wilton, CT