



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR WALTER F. TIMILTY

Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 213B
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

TEL. (617) 722-1643

FAX. (617) 722-1522

WALTER.TIMILTY@MASENATE.GOV

WWW.MASENATE.GOV

Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION
AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPALITIES AND
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELDER AFFAIRS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BONDING, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
AND STATE ASSETS

December 5th, 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, Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel:

We are writing to you today, in support of the Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. (Mass Access) letter sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) commissioners in reference to the disapproval 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*.

Being elected officials, both as a State Senator and a State Representative, we work in collaboration with many local public, educational, and government access (PEG) channels in the district we represent. For instance, The Avon Community Access & Media, Inc. provides superior access to community cable television for the residents and businesses in the Town of Avon, Massachusetts. We have had the privilege of working directly with ACAM on several occasions. Their dedication to providing quality access to local events and issues to their viewers throughout the town is commendable.

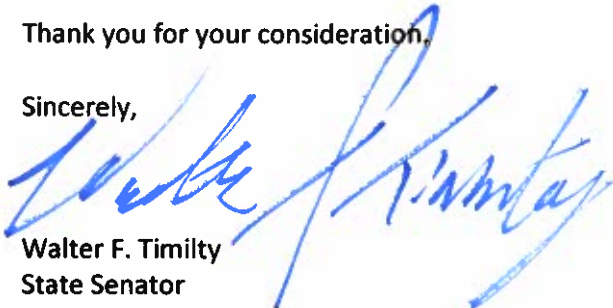
The potential rule changes that are being proposed by the FCC if adopted, would negatively impact local access stations, such as the Avon Community Access & Media (ACAM). Specifically, much of the funding that is received by these PEG channels would be diminished, making it difficult for ACAM, and others, to operate efficiently. In addition, the proposals set forth in the Further Notice will have a deleterious effect to our public, educational, and government access (PEG) channels. For example, the FCC is

considering adopting a rule that would allow cable operators to deduct "in-kind" services from its franchise fees that states use to support PEGs. The in turn, would shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators. In totality, this will threaten the livelihood of PEG stations, throughout the Commonwealth, as well as threatening the livelihood of those who depend on these stations as a source of income.


Constituents that we represent rely on local news, politics, educational, and informational programming that is reported through PEG channels. We agree with the comments submitted by Mass Access. Moreover, we urge the Commission to afford them every consideration in opting to refuse the adoption of the proposals addressed in the Further Notice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter F. Timilty
State Senator
Norfolk Bristol and Plymouth District



William C. Galvin
Massachusetts State Representative
Avon, Canton, Stoughton precincts 1,5,7,8