



HOMTV
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

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**Communications
Commission:**

Walter Benenson
Commission Chair

Tunga Kiyak
Commission Vice-Chair

Leslie Charles
Commissioner

Andrew Lathrop
Commissioner

Kevin Thatcher
Commissioner

Eric Langdon
Alternate Commissioner

Patrick Crowley
Alternate Commissioner

Kathy Ann Sundland
Liaison to Twp. Board

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director

December 14, 2018

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.

In Meridian Township, this means the threat of losing HOMTV and 7 other hyperlocal PEG (Public, Education and Government) access channels (several shared with Michigan State University). HOMTV provides exclusive gavel-to-gavel coverage of Meridian Township meetings; a service the local news industry cannot possibly provide. HOMTV also provides daily news, as well as a variety of diverse programs from senior programming to public forums to extensive local election coverage to Township-wide press conferences. Losing HOMTV means losing government transparency.

HOMTV provides hands-on reporting, directing, production and social media promotions training for college students wishing to enter the communications field. HOMTV has trained over 1,000 interns and has over 500 HOMTV Alumni Members who successfully work in the industry today. The experience our HOMTV Student Interns receive work on these programs. The practical working experience they gain is invaluable. Alumni members are sending their testimonials to us each week asking for funding to not go away. Please listen to them tell it through their testimonials on [HOMTV's YouTube Channel](http://bit.ly/HOMTVTestimonials) (<http://bit.ly/HOMTVTestimonials>).

This local presence encourages viewers in our Township 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



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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. We ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandie Yates
HOMTV Executive Producer/Internship Coordinator
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