

DANBY  
DORSET  
LANDGROVE  
LONDONDERRY  
MANCHESTER  
MT. TABOR

**BENNINGTON-RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION**

6378 VT Route 7A  
Sunderland, Vermont 05250-8427  
Phone: 802-362-2452, Fax: 802-362-2455

PAWLET  
PERU  
RUPERT  
SUNDERLAND  
WESTON  
WINHALL

December 14, 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 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

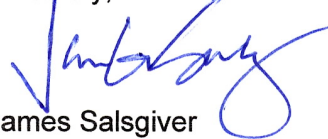
We write to support the Comments of the Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT-TV) to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

The Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) provides public education to 12 communities in Vermont: Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mount Tabor, Pawlet, Peru, Rupert, Sunderland, Weston, and Winhall. The ongoing support from GNAT-TV, our local public access cable channel, is essential in making the public aware of the wide range of school issues facing our residents. GNAT-TV records and airs on cable and online all of our school board meetings for the BRSU and its three districts (over 30 annually). In addition, GNAT covers and reports on numerous school activities throughout the school year that keep the public informed and help build our vibrant community spirit. Finally, GNAT gives a public voice to all of our citizens on all issues pertaining to public education. GNAT keeps us together.

This local presence enables the residents of our communities to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. 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 and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

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,

  
James Salsgiver  
BRSU School Board Chair