

December 12, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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*

I am writing in support of the Comments in this proceeding submitted by Access Humboldt in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Those Comments raise important issues and concerns that we share with regard to federal preemption of local jurisdictions and the future of our freedom of information and expression.

I live in an area that can be easily isolated. It is crucial that this area has local media connections to help us to prepare for disasters, to know what is going on during disasters, and to recover from disasters.

Local programs inform me of what is going on in my community so I can choose which events I may want to attend.

Community access media helps the people of this area to participate and encourage others to participate in our local, but diverse, culture, whether art, music, literature, theatre, dance, scientific presentations, or visiting speakers on myriad topics.

Community centered media provides an open window to our local economy, helping entrepreneurs and workers to develop and share employment and job training opportunities. Access to education and local knowledge supports lifelong learning.

As a member of the League of Women Voters, coverage of local government meetings not only helps me be an informed participant in my local community but also helps me inform others.

The proposed findings in this proceeding are misinformed and will harm the public interest by reducing local voices and diminishing broadband media resources available in our community.

In Humboldt County California, the benefits of community access media serve the public interest directly by providing a free and open platform for non-commercial speech. During campaigns for local elections, on Access Humboldt the League of Women Voters provide candidate forums, pros and cons on local issues, and provide so much local information that is not available anywhere else. This is so important to so many populations in our society: the elderly who can no longer drive, but who still vote; the generation who are now home caring for their parents but who are interested in politics; the disabled, also interested in politics, whose lives are made so much easier by local TV viewing. Taking local community access away goes against democratic principles of an informed electorate.

Local community access channels and other in-kind public benefits are part of a social contract that local jurisdictions have with commercial cable TV operators as intended when Congress set up the Cable Act. These local resources are very important to our community.

By allowing cable operators to reduce franchise fee support for local communities' access channels, the FNPRM as drafted will diminish the ability of PEG channels to serve communities such as ours. Restricting our county and cities will harm media localism and diversity - as a result, our community suffers. So we ask that these proposals not be adopted.

Sincerely,

Leslie R. Leach