

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 Access Humboldt, the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisers et al (the “Municipal Organizations”), the Alliance for Communications Democracy et al (the “Cable Act Preservation Alliance”), and Public Knowledge in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

We oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community, and we ask the FCC to support rather than preempt local jurisdictions’ constructive role in meeting local information needs for public, education and government (“PEG”) purposes.

In our jurisdiction, the benefits of community access media serve the public interest in at least five important ways: public health & safety; education & lifelong learning; economic development & opportunity; culture & arts; and, civic engagement. These 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. PEG Access strengthens our community as a whole.

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. Restricting local jurisdictions harms media localism and diversity. We ask that these proposals not be adopted.

Sincerely,

Dianne Orsillo and Sean Kearns

Arcata, CA