

**Manchester Rescue Squad Inc.**

**d/b/a Northshire Rescue Squad**

**6041 Main Street**

**Manchester Center, VT 05255**

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,

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 Northshire Rescue Squad provides 24 hour/7 days a week emergency medical service to 5 communities in Southwestern Vermont: Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mount Tabor and Winhall. We respond immediately to over 1,200 calls for help each year. We save lives. We are a non-profit organization that relies on public donations to maintain our service to this community. GNAT-TV provides us with media tools, like video public service announcements, that allow us to raise the funding we need to keep our service strong. GNAT-TV also produces news stories on our service that keeps the public aware of what we do throughout the year. Because of GNAT-TV, the public stands ready to support us when we need their help.

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,

Susan Howard

President, Northshire Rescue Squad Board