

[12-15-18]

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.

I am writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) 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.

I have one of the longest participation histories with PEG Access in my community; outside of the founders. I was an early faith-based volunteer in 2000, then a station volunteer, then an early employee in many capacities from 2003 forward. I can speak as an eye witness to the renaissance in all aspects of our community’s life, that PEG Access enabled. Through the local programming produced by the people for the people, we have improved health care, economic prospects, education pre-school to college, local history preservation, skills acquisition, support for local school sports and academic competitions, performing and visual arts, social support programs, charities and faith-based expression; not to mention training groups of all ages in video production and presentation skills.

Across the board there has been a renewed mutual interest in the welfare and appreciation of the talents of our neighbors; regardless of income, origin, address or family.

Nowhere is this more evident than in renewed participation in civics and local government. With equal access to reliable information, transparency of local government proceedings and the equal access to response, community members now participate, vote, run for office, debate, and hear each other’s voices. We know how far we have come, and no one wants to go back to the old uninformed system.

This benefit for all our people was what was intended when Congress set up the Cable Act. PEG Access does not solely benefit a local government or franchising authority- it benefits and strengthens the 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 organization to serve communities such as ours. We ask that it not be adopted.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne K. Montanye,

Northwest Access TV, St. Albans, VT

volunteer, employee, citizen