



Board of County Commissioners

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January 9, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov

Dear Chairman Pai,

Eagle County Government Television (ECGTV) provides live and unedited coverage of commissioner, planning, transit, open space and housing meetings. ECGTV's main objective is to offer constituents full transparency and accountability into the decision-making processes of elected officials and county staff. Residents depend on the availability of emergency notifications, election coverage, real-time weather conditions and other timely information. ECGTV also produces news shows, meeting recaps, public service announcements and local event coverage. The station provides an important outlet for non-profits, schools and other government agencies to disseminate valuable community content.

Given our county's reliance on ECGTV as a credible and informative community resource, we would like to express our disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions contained in the Federal Communications Commission's Sept. 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.

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. Such a change would have far-reaching impact and put at risk the continued function of our local PEG channel and effective community outreach. Specifically, the in-kind support could significantly reduce the amount of franchise fees collected, which in turn would impact the county's ability to fund the operation of the PEG channel.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect the important contributions PEG channels offer our community and elsewhere by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney

Chair

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Commissioner