

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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July 29, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20544

Re: In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Third Report and Order (MB Docket No. 05-311)

Dear Chairman Pai:

As members of the New York Delegation, we are writing in response to the FCC's Third Report and Order (MB Docket No. 05-311) regarding the way local franchising authorities regulate cable operators. In particular, we are united in our concern that the rulemaking could harm public, educational and government (PEG) stations. It is our sincere hope that you will work to ensure that the interests of local programming are protected when adopting a final rule.

New York PEG channels have long served our communities by airing shows that are produced locally, highlight local news and events, and reflect the unique character of our specific neighborhoods. PEG channels air community meetings, cover local government, and allow educational institutions to create instructive programming. They offer audio/visual career training to students, provide platforms for veterans, seniors, and others who do not otherwise have a voice, and generally help New Yorkers connect with their local governments in ways that are not otherwise available. We are deeply concerned that the outcome of this proposal could jeopardize these important services.

Under the Communications Act, local governments can require as part of cable franchise agreements that cable operators meet demonstrated community needs by setting aside channels for PEG stations. We are concerned that the FCC's proposal would allow the cost of local channels to be deducted as an "in-kind" service from the franchise fees paid to local governments. This loss of revenue would result in a substantial reduction of the scope of PEG channels, or in their complete loss altogether.

Given the importance of PEG stations to our communities across the state and the nation, we ask that the FCC work to protect their interests when adopting a final rule. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress



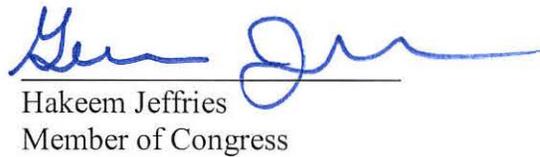
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



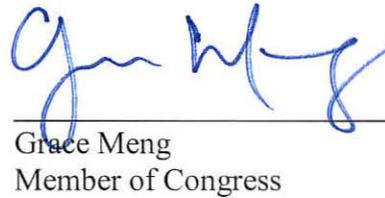
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



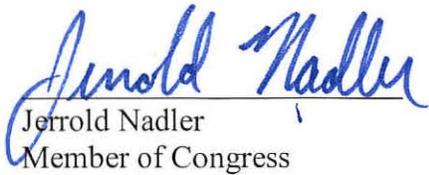
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



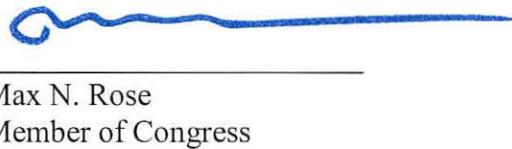
Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress



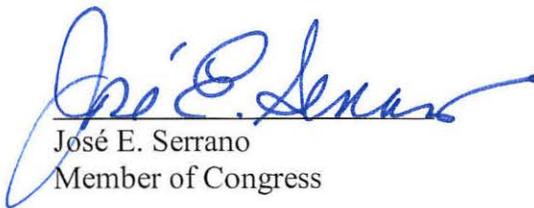
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



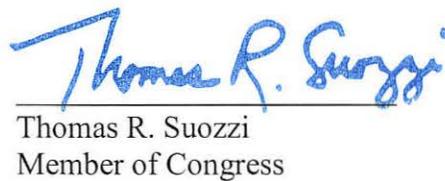
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



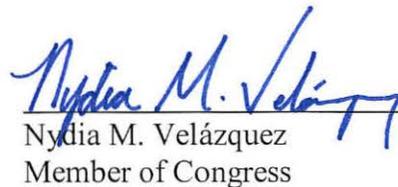
Max N. Rose  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress