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Congress of the United States
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CLIMATE CRISIS

July 16, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

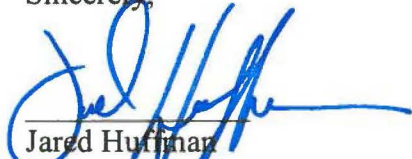
I write regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) docket titled "Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992" (MB Docket No. 05-311).

Under the Cable Communications Act of 1984, towns and cities across the country can require cable operators to pay franchise fees and provide other community support, which in turn fund PEG stations and other local services. The FCC's current proposal would allow cable operators to unilaterally assign a value to these channels and take that amount from their total obligation. This would mean cities and towns would be faced with less funding for local services and public, educational, or governmental (PEG) channels.

This proposal would put at risk critical funding for PEG stations as well as broadband connections to schools and other public buildings. I've heard concerns from constituents who rely on PEG stations to fill a critical need in their communities by providing channels to monitor local government proceedings, educational programming, local news, and other locally produced programming, and I've heard from stakeholders and community media organizations who provide that important programming.

PEG stations are essential to civic engagement and public education. At a time of increasing medial consolidation, PEG stations are an important platform for local, independent voices to be heard. Ahead of the FCC's vote on this matter in August, I urge you to consider the impacts that this proposal would have on communities in my district and across the country.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

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