



December 17, 2018

Representative Ken Buck
Representative Mike Coffman
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Doug Lamborn
Representative Ed Perlmutter
Representative Jared Polis
Representative Scott Tipton
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Cory Gardner

Dear Representative,

We are a regional organization representing 23 municipalities and 5 counties. Concerns from our members compel us to express our opposition to proposed FCC rulemaking changes regarding franchise fees. Our Council voted December 6th to express our opposition to the rulemaking changes directly to each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation through this correspondence since the FCC comment period has closed.

We request that you be prepared to intervene with the FCC on our behalf if the FCC chooses to override local control and current franchise fee agreements which have been individually negotiated by each entity with cable providers across the region. The adoption of proposed rules would undermine these local agreements and the revenues negotiated to local jurisdictions, often with 10-year durations by allowing cable companies to claim "in kind" value to avoid cash payment of franchise fees. These franchise fees primarily fund citizen access and transparency to local governments through PEG channels on which citizens can view committees and boards at work and other valuable local information.

By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's rules will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees or PEG channels -- something that was never the intent of the Act. Such a change would have far-reaching impact and undermine funding for PEG channels.

We hereby express our disapproval of the proposed rules 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.

NWCCOG member communities listed on our letterhead appreciate your attention to this important matter. Please send reply to our Council Chair, below.

Karn Stiegelmeier

NWCCOG Council Chair
Karn.Stiegelmeier@summitcountyco.gov

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

- City of Glenwood Springs
- City of Steamboat Springs

EAGLE COUNTY

- Avon
- Basalt
- Eagle
- Gypsum
- Minturn
- Red Cliff
- Vail

GRAND COUNTY

- Fraser
- Granby
- Grand Lake
- Hot Sulphur Springs
- Kremmling
- Winter Park

JACKSON COUNTY

- Walden

PITKIN COUNTY

- Aspen
- Snowmass Village

SUMMIT COUNTY

- Blue River
- Breckenridge
- Dillon
- Frisco
- Montezuma