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CHAIRMAN:
U.S. SENATE CLIMATE CHANGE CLEARINGHOUSE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2107

December 27, 2018

City of Somerville City Clerk's Office
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143-1740

Dear Friends:

RE #206743

Thank you for contacting me regarding funding for public, educational, and governmental (PEG) stations. I appreciate hearing from you about this important matter.

Americans watch PEG channels to monitor local government proceedings, hear the latest news from nearby college campuses, and consume other locally produced programming including emergency alerts. These stations are critical sources of information that catalyze civic engagement and offer an important platform for local voices.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering a proposal to alter, at cable operators' discretion, the terms of the governing agreements between local governments and cable operators. The proposal puts at risk critical funding for PEG stations as well as broadband connections to schools and other public buildings. That is why I sent a [letter](#) to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai expressing my concern that this proposal would jeopardize community television and urging the Commission to consider the proposal's potential impact on PEG stations. I was pleased that ten other Senators joined my call to protect community television.

There are more than 1,500 public, educational, and governmental studios/operations and an estimated 3,000 PEG channels in America. These outlets broadcast tens of thousands of hours of programming produced by veterans, seniors, the disabled and ethnic, minority and second language groups. I will continue to advocate for PEG television, keeping your thoughts in mind.

Thank you again for contacting me about this issue. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. To sign up for my newsletter, visit <http://www.markey.senate.gov/newsletter>. You can also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101
413-255-4610

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA
JAN 14 P 3:30

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator