

March 7, 2008  
Energy and Technology Committee  
Support H.B. 5814

While I wish I could attend and speak in person, I cannot, so thank you for considering my written testimony. I fully support this bill and urge the legislature to endorse it.

As you know, the DPUC made a disastrous decision in 2006, allowing Sound View to remain Area 2's third-party provider for PEG programming. Since that time, Sound View has continued to take a non-participatory stance in working with the six communities to help each achieve sustainable town-specific programming. If anything, Sound View has dragged its heels and been an obstacle.

In this day and age, each town owes it to their citizens to have public meetings and events made available on a regular basis. This is not only for live programming but also for repeated broadcast, which allows the citizens the ability to become better informed regarding the issues confronting their community.

The bill's call for a community outreach program is vital since too few citizens are even aware the PEG channels are available on cable services. Each town benefits from many active organizations that could take advantage of programming opportunities if they are alerted to the option.

There's little doubt that this bill will benefit the greatest number of people and will force towns and Sound View to be proactive in providing programming. We laymen call this a win-win scenario.

Sincerely,

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