



NORTH HAVEN COMMUNITY TELEVISION, INC.
PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND GOVERNMENTAL TELEVISION

Statement of NHTV

Re: Raised House Bill No. 6604

An Act Concerning Public Access Television Channels

March 5, 2009

First, NHTV fully supports Sec. 2. Section 16-331d (c) in allowing employees of P.E.G. access providers to serve on a cable advisory council. Allowing P.E.G. employees to serve on a cable advisory council was permitted until the passing of P.A. 95-150, which took effect in 1996. At present, many cable advisory councils are suffering from a lack of interested community members willing to serve in a volunteer capacity on councils. Allowing P.E.G. employees to serve will help fill this void. In addition, allowing P.E.G. employees to serve will provide a level of technical expertise as it relates to P.E.G. center operations beyond what most cable advisory council members currently possess. In matters where a conflict might arise, a P.E.G. employee could simply abstain from voting on a particular issue.

Second, NHTV is concerned about Sec. 8. Section 16-331h (8) which would require certified competitive video services such as AT&T U-Verse to provide carriage of P.E.G. channels in the same manner as incumbent community antenna television companies. While NHTV strongly believes that in a perfect world, all P.E.G. channels should be carried in the same manner as local broadcasters (such as WTNH, WFSB, WVIT, etc.) and cable networks (such as FOX News, ESPN, CNN, etc.), NHTV also realizes that due to the difference in technology that exists in the backbone architecture of the AT&T U-Verse system versus the standard backbone architecture of the incumbent community antenna television companies, that it would be very difficult from a both a technology standpoint as well as a cost standpoint for a system with architecture such as AT&T U-Verse utilizes to carry out, if required to do so. So much so, that NHTV is concerned that AT&T U-Verse might abandon providing service to residents of the State of Connecticut, if required to provide such transmission methodology. If that were to happen, NHTV is concerned about the potential loss of viewers/subscribers, which could result in less dollars flowing to the P.E.G. provider as a result of diminished amounts of P.E.G. subscriber fees (fees that are required by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control.).

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Again, while NHTV would prefer the standard channel carriage on AT&T U-Verse that is currently provided for P.E.G. content on incumbent community antenna television companies like Comcast, we nonetheless feel that AT&T's "downloadable" delivery method has improved, both in quality and speed, and if given the choice of not being made available on AT&T U-Verse due to AT&T abandoning its present Connecticut system as a result of more stringent legislation, NHTV would prefer not to support legislation requiring AT&T to deliver P.E.G. content in the same manner as other broadcast/cable outlets.

Sincerely,



Walter L. Mann

Executive Director,

NHTV

North Haven Community Television, Inc.