



Sound View Community Media, Inc.

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March 3, 2009

The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
The Honorable Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chair
Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Fonfara & Representative Nardello:

On behalf of Sound View Community Media, I would like to express our opposition to H.B. 6604, An Act Concerning Public Access Television Channels. H.B. 6604 puts Connecticut's competitive video market at risk by adding more regulation. This bill will only further complicate and impede the regulatory authority of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC).

Many local cable advisory councils and municipalities also provide local educational and government access services. This bill would allow them to mediate customer inquiries and complaints regarding PEG access television. This is a direct conflict of interest.

Since it first entered Connecticut's video market just a few years ago, AT&T has invested \$336 million in infrastructure to bring broadband and video to the state. As a result, AT&T not only carries the same PEG programming as cable, but it also provides its customers PEG from every other community in the state where their service is offered. Sound View Community Media, Inc. was proud to become the first PEG access provider in Connecticut to provide our PEG access services to AT&T U-Verse subscribers.

That type of investment, especially during these difficult economic times is critical to the State of Connecticut. Faced with new, unnecessary regulations, companies like AT&T may think twice before making that kind of investment in our state.

The state needs to encourage continued competition that has given Connecticut consumers a wide range of choices. HB 6604 would do just the opposite.

Sincerely,

Thomas Castelot
President

Community Public, Educational and Government Access Television