

# ***A.N.C.C.***

**Area Nine Cable Council, c/o Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897**

**To: Connecticut General Assembly Energy & Technology Committee  
From: Hal Levy, Area Nine Cable Council Chair  
Re: Raised Bill No. 5463  
An Act Concerning Periodic Review of Video Providers  
Date: March 10, 2010**

**Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee:**

**The Area Nine Cable Council (ANCC), which is the local Cable Advisory Council for Cablevision of Connecticut with 121,000 subscribers in the ten towns of Southwest Fairfield County, supports HB 5463.**

**Throughout its 28-year history, our Council has worked to ensure quality of service for the subscribers and communities we represent. We have been a party in three cable franchising dockets for Cablevision and, therefore, are very knowledgeable about the process of performance review by the DPUC and its positive affect on video service quality.**

**In 2006, the Connecticut legislature created two new video service licenses in order to promote competition in the video service industry and benefit consumers. ANCC participated in these proceedings and supported the "level playing field" doctrine. We also argued for the preservation of performance standards for service providers who utilize public rights of way to deliver their products. We fear that, without proper review by the DPUC, there could be a race to the bottom by the operators in the areas of customer service, community access support, management of outages, service to handicapped and low-income customers, and cooperation with the DPUC. Therefore, passage of HB 5463, which will establish a performance review by the DPUC, will create the necessary process to assure public input in order to preserve quality service in the aforementioned areas.**

**In the recent past, there has been resistance by AT&T to any regulation of its video service product. Aware of the public's desire to have competitive choice for a video service provider, the company has, on more than one occasion, threatened to pull out of the state if certain regulations are legislatively placed on its service. We believe that performance review is responsible and universally accepted in this industry where service companies use the public rights of way. We also believe that in today's market, telecommunications companies must be able to offer video in addition to telephone and data service to its customers in order to survive. Therefore, we question the veracity of those threats to withdraw from the State.**

**We therefore urge the E & T Committee to move this bill forward and help give the citizens of Connecticut the television services they deserve.**