



**CGA Energy and Technology Committee
March 4, 2010 Public Hearing
Comments by Pua Ford, Media Specialist
Support for RSB-350 AAC Satellite Television**

My name is Pua Ford. I am the Media Issues specialist for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut believes that statewide public affairs programming, such as that provided by the Connecticut Television Network (CT-N), must be adequately protected, promoted, and funded by the state legislature and available to all Connecticut residents, regardless of the provider of TV/video services.

The purpose of Raised Senate Bill 350, *An Act Concerning Satellite Television*, is to “provide greater access to the Connecticut Television Network.” Currently, satellite television providers are not required to carry CT-N. The League supports in concept taking steps to incentivize satellite TV services to provide CT-N to their subscribers. As noted above, we believe that CT-N should be available to all Connecticut residents.

If there is any revenue realized from the increased gross earnings tax charged to satellite TV providers who do not carry CT-N, the League believes that this revenue should be directed first toward reimbursing the Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA)—which was used last September to interconnect CT-N with the alternative wireline video service, U-verse. The League strongly supports funding and protection for the less well-financed community access TV organizations, so it was very unsettling when this account was raided to relieve AT&T of an expense that has been shouldered for years by cable television companies. We believe this preferential treatment was both injurious to community access TV organizations and unfair to incumbent cable companies.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on these issues today on behalf of the League.