

To: Energy & Technology Committee Members
From: Jennifer Evans, West Hartford Community Television

**Written Testimony Supporting
Raised Bill S.B. No. 950**

An Act Concerning Technical Revisions to Energy and Technology Statutes

On behalf of West Hartford Community Television, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this legislative proceeding through the filing of this testimony.

16 -331 Section 20 (k)

This statute was passed in 1990 and is the law that sets up the funding structure for public access television. We ask that a change be made so this **statute is not repealed but merely amended** for the following reason:

The wording of the law is that "... the amount shall be \$5.00 per subscriber, per year, adjusted annually by a percentage reflecting the increase or decrease of the consumer price index for the preceding calendar year provided the authority may increase or decrease the amount by not more than 40% of said amount for the subscribers..."

By repealing the law, the technical change might be misconstrued or strictly interpreted to mean that all community stations would receive \$5.00 per subscriber thereby losing over 20 years of CPI increases which will significantly affect our operating budget. Our current annual funding rate is \$7.77 per subscriber.

Thank you for your continued support of community television as a forum for free speech, community dialogue, cultural exchange and artistic expression. Community television is legislatively mandated and plays a vital role in creating an engaged local community. A vibrant, financially sound community access system is an important source of local information and grass-roots participation in government and civic life.

We respectfully ask the committee to make clear that these changes are technical revisions that do not change the scope or spirit of the law.