

To: The Energy and Technology Committee

From: David J. Bishop,
Secretary, Southeastern Connecticut Television, Inc. (SEC-TV)

Dear Committee:

I am writing to you as the secretary of the board of Southeastern Connecticut Television, Inc. one of the newest non-profit Community Access Providers in the state. I am requesting the passage of the following proposed legislation:

- [Proposed S.B. No. 135](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT
- [Proposed H.B. No. 5172](#) AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT
- [H.J. No. 18](#) (COMM) RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION LIMITING THE USE OF MONEYS CONTAINED IN THE PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

As a resident of Southeastern Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the enormous benefits the PEGPETIA Investment Fund provides to the community.

Southeastern Connecticut Television received a generous grant from the PEGPETIA fund, which enabled us to update the control room and playback system at the Community Access studio. Before receiving this grant, we were reliant on a video switcher in the control room that was more than 25 years old, with replacement parts no longer available. We now have a reliable video switcher for our studio productions, which allows us to record in up-to-date electronic formats.

As a result of this grant, we were also able to upgrade the playback system for televising community access television programs. This dramatically increased our programming capabilities, enabling us to utilize current electronic formats. We are no longer reliant on antiquated videotape players and this allowed us to expand our programming hours to nights and weekends,

Additionally, we were able to purchase 5 portable camera packages, to loan to residents of each of the 5 towns we serve. Prior to this grant, we had 1 camera to loan out, and it was often unavailable when residents requested it.

This funding is vital to aiding community access centers which face many challenges to maintain and upgrade equipment as technology continues to change rapidly.

Thousands of new television productions both in the studio and on location have been made possible as a result of this generous grant. Many of the schools and organizations would not be able to produce programming without our facilities and equipment.

We are grateful for the opportunities the PEGPETIA fund has provided in the past.

We are hopeful the fund will be restored to provide vital support to help us fulfill our mission to the communities we serve.

I strongly urge you to restore the PEGPETIA fund through the passage of the proposed legislation.

Please contact me if you require any additional information.

Best regards,

David J. Bishop

Mystic, Connecticut