



PRESIDENT
Roger Goldbeck

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Lauren Fine

VICE PRESIDENT
Earl Exum

SECRETARY
Yelena Akim

TREASURER
Mark D. Walker

DIRECTORS
Andy Bassock
Andrei Brel
Ema L. Colon
Candace Fisher
Khadka Ghanashyam
Patricia Genser
Cynthia Basil Howard
Chuck Joseph, III
Ruth Kurien
Kristin Magendantz
David McGuire
Tom Murphy
John Sablon
Glenn Shafer
Carrie Titolo
Holly Williams

COMMUNITY ADVISORS
John DeSimone
Zena Kovack
Essie Labrot
Pamela Lassman
Christine Looby
Maura Malliet
John Lemega
Ed Rankin
Beth Ryan
Geri Mandell
Anne Streeter
Tracey Wilson

TOWN COUNCIL
Denise Berard Hall
Scott Slika

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jillian Gilchrest
Jay Sarzen

FOUNDERS
Muriel Fleischmann
Anne Streeter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Evans

**OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR**
John P. Droney

**PROGRAMMING
COORDINATOR**
Jitu A. Huntley

**TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR**
Leslie Dauer

Connecticut General Assembly

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Public Hearing: March 4, 2014

On behalf of West Hartford Community Television, I thank the committee for the opportunity to share testimony in support of:

SB 135 AAC the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account

HB 5172 AA Appropriating Funds for the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account

HJ 18 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

West Hartford Community Television supports the effort to restore funds to the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Technology Investment Fund. (PEGPETIA) The fund represents our only access to capital funds for technology beyond what we can raise as a non-profit in our own community. It helps us provide our residents with the tools and training they need to be active participants in our democracy.

Our non-profit community media center has received three grants from the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Technology Investment Fund. (PEGPETIA)

In 2008, funds from this account helped us launch “Be The Media”, an outreach project designed to encourage grass-roots journalism and story-telling by placing cameras with local non-profit organizations, in libraries and in very West Hartford public school. Stories are hosted individually on our website and telecast on the channel every Friday at 7pm. The program has allowed us to connect and build community through unique partnerships like Hello! West Hartford that explores the rich cultural diversity of our town.

West Hartford Community Television, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, CT 06107 860.561.1260

Comcast Channels 5, 95 & 96 AT&T U-verse Menu 99 Online and On Demand on whctv.org
Join us on Facebook: West Hartford Community TV Follow us on Twitter: whctv5

For the Community, by the Community



PRESIDENT
Roger Goldbeck

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Lauren Fine

VICE PRESIDENT
Earl Exum

SECRETARY
Yelena Akim

TREASURER
Mark D. Walker

DIRECTORS
Andy Bassock
Andrei Brel
Ema L. Colon
Candace Fisher
Khadka Ghanashyam
Patricia Genser
Cynthia Basil Howard
Chuck Joseph, III
Ruth Kurien
Kristin Magendantz
David McGuire
Tom Murphy
John Sablon
Glenn Shafer
Carrie Titolo
Holly Williams

COMMUNITY ADVISORS
John DeSimone
Zena Kovack
Essie Labrot
Pamela Lassman
Christine Looby
Maura Malliet
John Lemega
Ed Rankin
Beth Ryan
Geri Mandell
Anne Streeter
Tracey Wilson

TOWN COUNCIL
Denise Berard Hall
Scott Slifka

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jillian Gilchrest
Jay Sarzen

FOUNDERS
Muriel Fleischmann
Anne Streeter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Evans

**OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR**
John P. Droney

**PROGRAMMING
COORDINATOR**
Jitu A. Huntley

**TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR**
Leslie Dauer

It has also allowed West Hartford Community Television to provide critical information during times of emergency. In the wake of the October storm of 2011, we were able to mobilize our volunteer “Be The Media” reporters to provide unprecedented coverage of hyper-local information about shelters, charging stations, the resilience of our people, and important facts like how to install a generator. Since 99% percent of the town was without power, the ability to deliver short news stories via whctv.org, social media and even constant contact was a critical part of the way we served our town during this emergency. In 2012, West Hartford Community Television was recognized for overall excellence as the Best Small Station in America. Be The Media has since become a national model through presentations at conferences. This program was made possible because of the seed money of fifteen thousand dollars from the PEGPETIA account.

We are in a period of rapid technological change that requires continuous investment in our infrastructure. In 2011, we received a grant to upgrade our control room switcher which has allowed producers to easily roll-in stories recorded in the field to their shows and use virtual sets. Most recently, we received a significant grant to upgrade and implement a new lighting design to make our studio more energy efficient and improve the quality of all productions.

In 2007, in an effort to encourage an environment of competition, franchises were eliminated. This fund was set up to ensure that schools, libraries and community media would be able to keep pace with technological changes in the absence of the traditional community needs assessment that would normally occur during franchise renewal. We appreciated the work of this committee to create a mechanism to ensure the future of community media and technology needs for our schools and libraries. In the crafting of the legislation, the fund was front-loaded to ensure a balance of funds would always be available.

As a result of the re-allocation of funds, the Public Utility Regulatory Authority is no longer accepting applications until further notice. We understand budget pressures but respectfully ask that now that there is a growing budget surplus that serious consideration be given to returning the funds so that they can be used as legislatively intended. We understand that the re-allocation represents the entire contribution to the fund, essentially sweeping the fund clean for two years, which in this technological environment, feels like a lifetime.

At the time that this fund was re-allocated, community access leaders were developing The Connecticut Cloud Project, an innovative program which would allow access centers to share programming and technology costs by coming together on a cloud based server for delivery.

West Hartford Community Television, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, CT 06107 860.561.1260

Comcast Channels 5, 95 & 96 AT&T U-verse Menu 99 Online and On Demand on whctv.org

Join us on Facebook: West Hartford Community TV Follow us on Twitter: whctv5

For the Community, by the Community



PRESIDENT
Roger Goldbeck

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Lauren Fine

VICE PRESIDENT
Earl Exum

SECRETARY
Yelena Akim

TREASURER
Mark D. Walker

DIRECTORS
Andy Bassock
Andrei Brel
Ema L. Colon
Candace Fisher
Khadka Ghanashyam
Patricia Genser
Cynthia Basil Howard
Chuck Joseph, III
Ruth Kurien
Kristin Magendantz
David McGuire
Tom Murphy
John Sablon
Glenn Shafer
Carrie Titolo
Holly Williams

COMMUNITY ADVISORS
John DeSimone
Zena Kovack
Essie Labrot
Pamela Lassman
Christine Looby
Maura Malliet
John Lemega
Ed Rankin
Beth Ryan
Geri Mandell
Anne Streeter
Tracey Wilson

TOWN COUNCIL
Denise Berard Hall
Scott Slifka

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jillian Gilchrest
Jay Sarzen

FOUNDERS
Muriel Fleischmann
Anne Streeter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Evans

**OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR**
John P. Droney

**PROGRAMMING
COORDINATOR**
Jitu A. Huntley

**TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR**
Leslie Dauer

What is at risk here is the ability to innovate and evolve during a period of time when doing so is critical to the future of community access, and I dare say, our state. The fund is more than just equipment, it is a source of inspiration that has helped build unique programs to help us better serve our community.

The reality is that technology skills are not just an add-on skill anymore, they are required for participation in everyday life. You don't get a job by stuffing paper into an envelope. You don't take tests by coloring in a bubble with a number two pencil. The tools and technology that this fund provides to schools, libraries and media centers are critical to engaging, informing and preparing all our citizens to be active participants in our communities.

We commend the legislators who have proposed and sponsored bills to restore PEGPETIA. We request that the Committee adopt the intent of the bills so that the application process can resume and the fund can once again serve it's true purpose of using technology to educate, empower and build community through media.

I thank you for your time, your vision and welcome any questions at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Evans

Executive Director

West Hartford Community Television

West Hartford Community Television, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, CT 06107 860.561.1260

Comcast Channels 5, 95 & 96 AT&T U-verse Menu 99 Online and On Demand on whctv.org
Join us on Facebook: West Hartford Community TV Follow us on Twitter: whctv5

For the Community, by the Community