



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut

Government Access Television

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Connecticut General Assembly
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Public Hearing: March 4, 2014

Testimony of
Scott A. Hanley, Manager of Government Access Television, Town of Wallingford
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

Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and members of the Committee,

As Manager of Government Access Television for the Town of Wallingford (Town), I wish to express my appreciation to the Committee and its staff for allowing me to represent the Town and our facility in this legislative proceeding.

The Town supports the intent of proposed bills SB 135 and HB 5172 and joint resolution HJ 18 as a means to restore and protect funds in the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA).

From its inception, PEGPETIA has been supremely beneficial to municipalities, community media facilities and schools. In Wallingford, grants from PEGPETIA have made possible improved coverage of government meetings, greater access to production and telecast resources by local residents, and increased student collaboration and communication skills. Key to these successes has been the ability to secure funds to upgrade equipment and implement technology that is relevant within today's communications infrastructure.

During legislative deliberations regarding the relaxation of regulation of cable television providers, the Town recalls that PEGPETIA was identified as a replacement for capital funds that typically would be secured as part of periodic franchise renewal proceedings. As such, when Public Act 07-253 (An Act Concerning Certified Competitive Video Service) was enacted, local entities were optimistic that a well-founded, constant source of funds would assist in the development of equipment replacement schedules and allow the integration of new technology.

The Town observes, however, that the budget reallocation of collected PEGPETIA funds during the current fiscal year has already proven detrimental to our efforts, and those of others, to pursue measured implementation of capital improvements. Looking ahead, without PEGPETIA funds, projects such as the Town's replacement of studio and telecast components – many of which exceed fifteen to twenty years of age – cannot move forward.

The Town commends the legislators who have proposed and sponsored bills to restore PEGPETIA. We request that the Committee adopt the intent of the bills so that budget modifications can be implemented during this session.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD



Scott A. Hanley, Manager
Division of Government Access Television