

March 19, 2014

Senator John Fonfara, Co-Chair
Representative Patricia Widlitz, Co-Chair
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: RB 469, AAC Television Coverage of State Government Deliberations and
Distribution of Proceeds from New Lottery Games**

Dear Senator Fonfara and Representative Widlitz:

We understand that the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee held a public hearing yesterday on the above-referenced bill, which proposes to increase the funds available (from 2.5 million dollars to 6 million dollars) to the Office of Legislative Management and set aside for the purpose of defraying the cost of providing Connecticut citizens with Connecticut Television Network (CT-N) coverage. The Freedom of Information Commission, State Elections Enforcement Commission and the Office of State Ethics are each familiar with CT-N's project entitled "CT-N 2.0", as well as the proposal to improve and significantly extend CT-N's coverage of all three branches of government. We wish to express our support for this bill.

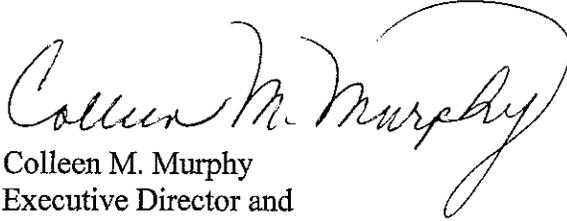
As executive directors of three of Connecticut's government oversight agencies, we are particularly committed to increasing government transparency and encouraging citizen engagement. Using modern technology and all of its associated tools, in the manner envisioned by CT-N, would achieve these goals. CT-N has proven itself over the past 15 years as an innovator and has brought the workings of government, predominantly the legislative process up to this point, into people's homes and onto the personal computers and televisions of Connecticut citizens in a most productive, timely and professional manner.

We understand that if funding is increased along the lines proposed, CT-N plans to greatly extend its coverage of executive and judicial branch hearings, through the use of devices, such as remotely-controlled cameras and remote production work spaces. It will also make events available in real-time and web stream accessible, both on CT-N's web site and the web site of the agency whose proceedings are being covered. Further, once covered, the videos from such events will be archived and members of the public will have the ability to utilize "search and share tools" to locate the precise topic, speaker or agenda item that the citizen is interested in following, in a fast and comprehensive manner.

If brought to fruition, advances such as these will make government even more accessible to the people it serves. Thus, passage of this bill will be a worthwhile investment in government transparency and one that will benefit Connecticut citizens of today and generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We regret that we were unable to provide it to you in advance of yesterday's hearing but ask that it be included as part of the record related to RB 469.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Murphy
Executive Director and
General Counsel
State of Connecticut
Freedom of Information Commission



Michael J. Brandi
Executive Director and
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State of Connecticut
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Carol Carson
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