

**Statement of Frontier Communications Corporation
Regarding Proposed H.B. 6436
AN ACT STABILIZING THE FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT INSTITUTION OF
COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION
Before the Joint Committee on Energy and Technology
February 19, 2015**

Proposal:

Proposed House Bill 6436 was introduced to “stabilize funding for community access television.”

Comments:

Frontier Communications Corporation (“Frontier”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed bill.

Through its acquisition of the Southern New England Telephone Company from AT&T October 2014, Frontier offers Frontier TV service in the state of Connecticut. As part of this offering, Frontier has replicated the public, educational and government access platform that AT&T had in place prior to the transfer of control through the use of a similar application on Channel 99. Frontier understands the importance of this programming to the communities we serve. To that end, we made a voluntary commitment to provide, during 2015 and 2016 make up to \$125,000 per year, in cash funds or “in kind” services for new original programming content for qualified community-based PEG programmers and boards of education and other education entities for education technology initiatives in the communities Frontier offers U-verse video service. In addition, Frontier has already begun work to fulfill its voluntary commitment to expend at least \$750,000 to upgrade the Cisco Content Distribution Network to improve delivery of additional original content programming and PEG programming.

While we believe these funds will have a positive impact on the PEG experience for Frontier customers in the markets where we provide Frontier TV service, we believe that the state and other providers have the opportunity to make the same commitment Frontier has by providing funding to the PEG programmers to upgrade technology and create new programming. The PEGPITA fund, for example, has not been utilized for its intended purpose over the last several of years, with that funding instead being swept into the State’s General Fund to help cover budget shortfalls. There are other bills pending that would reinstitute this, and Frontier supports the effort to use those monies, that are collected from video subscribers, for their intended purpose.

Conclusion:

As a company committed to customer service and providing a high-quality video programming experience, Frontier appreciates the value delivered by PEG programming. As a new provider in the state, we have targeted money to assist in improving this important programming. Frontier

encourages the Committee to explore ways the State could provide additional funding, including reinstating the PEGPITA fund, to PEG programmers so that they can continue to enhance their programming capabilities.