



February 19, 2015

The Honorable Paul Doyle, Co Chair
The Honorable Lonnie Reed, Co Chair
Members of the Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5555 - Session Year 2015

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMING
AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (PEGPETIA) GRANT PROGRAM.

To reinstate the PEGPETIA Grant.

Introduced by: Rep. Dave W. Yaccarino, 87th Dist.

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the introduction of the aforementioned bill.

I am a lifelong resident of Wallingford, Connecticut, USA. I have the privilege of being the Vice President of Sales and minority owner for Wallingford based Discover Video LLC.

Discover Video is a Connecticut based high technology company with a focus on delivering video to help organizations improve communications and learning. We are helping schools and community access stations across Connecticut and Worldwide with our solutions.

I am here today as a tax payer, small (but growing) business owner, as a voice for the vibrant Community TV stations throughout Connecticut and as an advocate for the many K-12 schools that we serve and aim to serve with our technology.

I am here to join the chorus requesting that funding be restored, (reinstated, not swept) for the public, educational, governmental programming and education technology investment account (PEGPETIA).

It is important to note that 50% of the PEGPETIA funds is for PEG channels to subsidize capital and equipment costs related to producing and procuring such programming and the other 50% is to be used for boards of education and other educational entities for educational technology initiatives

Based upon feedback from Connecticut entities that I have worked with, I can assert that PURA has instituted a well-defined process with a number of checks and balances. As an individual and organization with experience working nationwide with school districts to secure funds for technology via a variety of federal and state programs, I can attest to the fact that PURA is administering the fund in an efficient and fair manner.

Funds from the PEGPETIA assist Connecticut community TV stations, City and Town Councils, and Boards of Education purchase technology equipment and services to stream meetings live over the public internet and make those meetings available on demand to their constituents wherever they are.

Technology secured via PEGPETIA keeps Connecticut competitive in this global economy by empowering our children via a multitude of modalities. Video technology helps teachers keep students engaged via blended learning and flipped classroom techniques. Video technology assists teachers and administrators to execute on the promise



of the twenty first century Common Core Standards. If we want to hold teachers accountable then we need to provide them tools to do their jobs using current technology and teaching practices.

In addition to the PEG channels throughout the state of Connecticut that leveraged PEGPETIA to purchase technology to reach residents in their respective communities, it is important for this committee to know that in 2013 more than twenty one (21) school districts encompassing one hundred eighty eight (188) schools with more than 81,000 students were able to begin leveraging technology for an investment of less than \$1,500,000 via PEGPETIA. The PEGPETIA funds administered by PURA is one of those great programs where a small pot of money can provide huge payback to communities with varying demographics throughout the State of Connecticut

Like the PEGs it is so important for schools to remain connected to the community. Parents and community are so very important to the success of the school and school district. Imagine the father, mother, grandparent or extended family member who is at his second job, traveling, or lives in another state. She takes out her iPhone or other text machine and begins watching her child in the school play, sporting event, graduation or other school performance as it is happening live or by watching it on demand.

I leave you with the story of the Consolidated School District of the great City of New Britain. When we called Christi Tilton, Media Specialist for New Britain High School to explain how our system could replace a non-working system that they had, she was in disbelief that a Connecticut based company could provide a very cost effective solution and that there was a Connecticut grant program to fund it. Less than a year later, in two dozen ways, technology funded by PEGPETIA, is helping New Britain and twenty one other school districts execute on education initiatives.

Please support the Connecticut PEG channels and Connecticut schools by stopping any sweep of the PEGPETIA funds. They do great work, please help them secure the tools to continue their most important endeavors.

Please contact me at (203) 314-5384 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph S. Chordas".

Joseph S. Chordas
Vice President of Sales & Lifetime Wallingford Resident