

Shaiken, Benjamin

From: Charles Rubano <secondhillstudio@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 1:08 AM
To: ETTestimony
Cc: Gregory Davis
Subject: PHB's 6436, 6437, 6438 Stabilizing Funding for Community Access TV

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Honorable Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Greetings!

My name is Charles Rubano. I reside at 40 Standish Road, New Milford, CT. I am writing to you in favor of stabilizing the funding for Community Access Television. As more and more traditional subscribers “cut the cord”, the threat to this funding increases. The proposed changes to the language in GGS 16-331a will close the loophole in the original statute and help keep this grassroots institution from withering away. To be effective, the final bill must contain unambiguous language that will require all franchises in Connecticut to collect the subscriber fees from *all services*.

I have personally participated in and benefited from public access television. I believe in its value both as a vehicle for the free exchange of ideas and information, and as an institution that empowers its users through training in telecommunications and the broadcast of their productions. What’s more, here is an issue that both parties can support. I see nothing partisan about stabilizing Community Access funding and it appears to have no impact on the state budget.

There are those who will argue that this will create a “tax on the internet”. Not true! It is a “subscriber fee” whose funds are not deposited into the State’s coffers. In addition, many of the cable franchises in Connecticut are already streaming Community Access programming *over the internet* and some have even begun providing this programming “on demand”. Therefore, subscribers who have “cut the cord” would be supporting something of value that they already have access to.

Therefore, I respectfully request your support for An Act to Stabilize the Funding for Community Access Television. I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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Regards

Charles M. Rubano
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