

Shaiken, Benjamin

From: Joanie Sutter <jsutter@nutmegtv.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:06 PM
To: ETTestimony
Subject: Comments on Proposed Bills No. 6436, 6437 and 6438 - An Act Concerning Community Access Television

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February 18, 2015

Attention: Energy and Technology Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Proposed Bills 6436, 6437 and 6438 - An Act Concerning Community Television

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this Public Hearing on February 19, 2015 regarding Proposed Bill 6436, 6437 and 6438.

The issue of how community access television is currently funded and what changes need to occur to solidify future funding is of great importance.

In December of 2014, the FCC adopted a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that asks for comment on how to modernize the definition of a multichannel video programming distributor to reflect that video services are no longer tied to a particular distribution technology." They are looking for a consumer-focused approach to ensure that providers will continue to be subject to their responsibilities as they transition their services to Internet protocol delivery.

As reported by Deadline's David Lieberman, "cable providers have clearly expanded well beyond their roots in cable TV service." Though latest tallies reflect cable video sub losses, cable companies picked up lots of Internet customers, says the report.

When more and more people look to the Internet for their TV viewing options through the likes of Netflix, Hulu, and Networks, how will PEG be funded with more and more cable subscriber losses?

Look at the State of Connecticut's website and a simple click to CT-N allows viewing with no subscription to TV cable service.

Broadband subscribers have surpassed cable subscribers and PEG is and will continue to lose subscriber dollars.

If dialogue on this important issue begins as a result of these Proposed Bills, no matter which subscribers they service (internet, telephone or cable), companies must be regulated in the State to pay subscriber fees to fund and allow a place for PEG Access.

Sincerely,

Joanie Sutter

Joanie Sutter
Executive Director



Nutmeg TV
9 Eastview Drive
Farmington, CT 06032
860.321.7405
www.nutmegtv.org



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