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Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I am John Curley, and I am a sophomore Communication Major at the Southern Connecticut State University Honor's College studying the field of Film, Television, and Digital Production. I have been involved with Wolcott community access television programming since being a 6th grade student at Tyrrell Middle School (2008). Opportunities within local community access television peaked my interest in the media production field, thus causing me to eventually pursue the TV production field at a higher education level. I was one of the leading students during the formation of Wolcott's educational access narrowcasting cable channel on the town's E channel from 2011-2014 during my time at Wolcott High School. Aside from my studies, I have continued to maintain WLCT96, Wolcott's governmental streaming channel at the Wolcott Town Hall, serving as Assistant Coordinator since 2013. I have been directly involved in Wolcott governmental access programming with hosting interviews and recording governmental meetings since 2009.

Due to my experience in the community access TV production area in Wolcott, I understand just how important it is for Wolcott information to be broadcast out 24/7/365 to our citizens. Although Wolcott's governmental Internet streaming channel (WLCT96) has been a success with a portion of our town's population, our elderly citizens in town who aren't users of the Internet cannot see their town's governmental programming. Our town residents who don't have easy Internet access cannot see critical information about their community because WLCT96 is not featured on cable television. Over 2/3 of our town's population cannot currently view WLCT96's 24/7/365 LIVE programming featuring governmental meetings, LIVE high school sporting events, interviews with local town officials, local emergency weather information, road closure information, and more. Statistically the majority of the hours out of a day, SKYE cable, the Greater Waterbury community access provider, broadcast out to Wolcott more hours of the Connecticut Television Network's feed on the governmental access channel (which is not town specific programming and can be viewed 24/7 on another cable channel on Comcast) than any other forms of programming. This means that more hours out of the average day, SKYE's programming schedule is completely free to switch Wolcott's governmental feed LIVE to our community at no additional cost to them or the Comcast subscribers. The most common questions residents ask the WLCT96 Video Core Committee are, "Why can't we watch our community events and meetings daily on cable? Why isn't Wolcott programming shown on cable during the times of emergency, but is only shown as a little streaming channel on our town's website?" These are questions in which the Town of Wolcott cannot provide its citizens with answers to at this time.

The current language within state statute 16-331ff isn't just hindering Wolcott's ability to broadcast crucial local governmental information to its citizens. It is neglecting every small community in Connecticut with a population of less than 100,000 people from delivering town specific television communication to the people it serves. This minor proposed change in state

law can not only present more efficiently to local communities their government at work, but may also save lives during times of emergency. As the Assistant Coordinator for WLCT96 and a life long resident of Wolcott, I know firsthand what a positive impact this change in state statute would have on all local communities within the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your important consideration on this matter. Please change state statute 16-331ff so that all small communities in Connecticut stay informed of what their local governments are doing for them each and everyday.

Sincerely,

John Curley  
Assistant Coordinator  
WLCT96-Wolcott Governmental TV