



**Connecticut General Assembly ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
Public Hearing Testimony for **March 1, 2016**

**Raised SB 286**      An Act Concerning the Public, Education and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program and Municipally Operated Education and Government Access Channels.

**Section 1. – SUPPORTED**

Nutmeg Public Access Television, Inc. (Nutmeg TV) thanks this Committee for its continued support to preserve this funding as it was legislatively written and intended. Nutmeg TV is the Community Access Provider (CAP) for the eight cities and towns of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, New Britain and Plainville.

Refer to PA 07-253, Sec. 26(b) and note that this tax is “upon the gross earnings from (1) the lines, facilities, apparatus and auxiliary equipment in this state used for operating a community antenna television system, or (2) the transmission to subscribers in this state of video programming by satellite or by a certified competitive video service provider.

Certificate holders and satellite companies are taxed by the State on their gross earnings and these taxes are specifically mandated in PA 07-253 to go to the PEGPETIA. They can and have been taken away leaving no funding mechanism for technological advancement.

PEGPETIA, (CGS 16-331cc), is a **separate, non-lapsing** fund with a dedicated purpose:

- provides capital grants to local access PEG TV stations and schools, libraries, regional education services centers
- funded by a 0.25% gross receipts tax on cable, competitive video and satellite television companies, not from CT taxpayers

The League of Women Voters has provided a comprehensive addendum of the towns and mechanisms by which the PEGPETIA support has impacted them in their submitted comments on this Raised Bill. Nutmeg TV is one of those recipients providing services for the towns listed below in Section 2.

**Section 2. – OPPOSED**

This request for change to statute 16-331ff is sought after by a town who's made requests to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) to operate outside of the CAP they are now in and they were denied.

Most recent request is Docket 14-08-02 [Click for Pura Docket 14-08-02 PURA Investigation into the Use of a Government Community Access Channel during an Emergency.](#)

CAPs are identified in the Statue, regulated by the Authority and there are many important reasons they were put into place. This change to legislation would mean that any municipality could request control of the E (Education) or G (Government) Access Channels for town specific programming and for what good reason? They have the ability to air their programming now.

-2-

Continuation of Section 2.

Issues:

1. Costs to connect municipalities to Cable Company and Video Service Providers
2. PURA's increased work load to monitor additional CAPs
3. Equipment, technical and procedural requirements needed, managed and monitored
4. Staffing resources, insurances and liability by towns
5. CAP already exists for this area and has been found compliant by PURA.

**Nutmeg TV respectfully requests the Committee remove Section 2 from this Raised Senate Bill.**