



Energy & Technology Committee

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.

On March 1, 2016, the Energy & Technology Committee ("Committee") held a Public Hearing regarding the above-referenced raised senate bill. It is understood that written material will be accepted for review until March 24, 2016 so please accept this submission.

Section 1. – SUPPORTED

The Plainville Area Cable Television Advisory Council (PACTAC), is the Advisory Council for Plainville Area Comcast and supports Nutmeg Public Access Television, Inc. (Nutmeg TV) in its efforts 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.

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

Section 2. – REPEAL SECTION 2

Section 2 requires closer examination and will slow down the PEGPETIA process if included.

We advocate on behalf of Nutmeg TV who will be hurt by this legislation. CAPs like Nutmeg TV were put into place for reasons that Statutes identify and is regulated by PURA. If a Town/City requests a reassignment of a channel, PURA *must* administer this in a docketed process. Approval of Section 2. would circumvent PURA who handles important functions that would oversee any reassignments for full examination.

Comcast connects with CAP stations, like Nutmeg TV for programming to be viewed on their system. Passing this legislation would mean that these companies would need to agree to connect many, many times with Towns/Cities and manage those connections which are very costly and redundant to systems already in place.

Towns/Cities and CAPs need to work together on channel allotment and resource issues. The passing of legislation to open the door for any Town/City to have their own channel would mean an enormous increase in resources and management for a system that is already place and working very well.

PACTAC respectfully requests the Energy & Technology Committee to Support PEGPETIA and repeal Section 2.