



203 Bridge Street, Richmond, VT
(802) 434-2550, email: mmctv15@gmail.com
www.MtMansfieldCtv.org

2/21/23

Hello,

My name is Angelike Contis. I'm from Jericho. I am the director of Mt. Mansfield Community Television in Richmond and President of the Vermont Access Network, which is made up of 24 community media centers.

I'm here to ask for your support of the Vermont Access Network's request for a one-time appropriation of \$1 million in FY24, which would be the third year of bridge funding in a time of declining cable revenue.

We're usually behind the scenes, but if you stop and look, community media is everywhere in Vermont, from the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro this past weekend to candidates' forums currently happening around the state, and coverage of events in *this* building – thanks to ORCA Media.

Planning for the return to in-person Town Meeting has made us reflect on how we've grown closer to our communities, providing access to new tools and platforms during the pandemic. At MMCTV, we set up hybrid meeting rooms for our 3 towns, hauled gear to our high school and coached students on streaming concerts and graduations. Our cell phone numbers were and are on town administrators' speed dial for tech help.

But just as we are back into a new groove, industry trends are threatening to pull the rug out from under us. Online viewing has replaced cable viewing and it's no secret that the cable revenue VAN centers have relied on for decades will fast become a thing of the past.

Please support the Vermont Access Network (the 24 Community Media PEG TV centers) with a one-time appropriation of \$1 million in FY24, as a third year of bridge funding to secure a funding stream to replace declining cable revenues.

Thank you!

Angelike Contis