

Rebecca Buck

From: Jane Kitchel <janek45@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 2:39 PM
To: Rebecca Buck
Subject: FW: Vermont Public Broadcasting System

> Subject: Vermont Public Broadcasting System

> From: patsabalis@gmail.com

> Date: Sun, 22 Mar 2015 22:18:38 -0400

> To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us

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> Dear Senator Kitchel:

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> I strongly urge you to support appropriations for Vermont Public Broadcasting System. When considering this issue, please keep in mind the following important points:

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> 1. Vermont PBS is a team player: It understands Vermont's fiscal challenges and is committed to being part of the solution as evidenced by its level funding requests for the last seven years.

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> 2. Vermont PBS is a public resource for all Vermonters. It is the only public television licensee in Vermont and it serves 100% of Vermont households over-the-air and 93% by cable or satellite. Vermont PBS' mission is to serve the community (especially the underserved) with civic, educational, and informational content. There is no commercial or political influence over content.

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> 3. Vermont PBS provides free quality pre-elementary and elementary school education and plays an important role in the development of young Vermonters. 33% of broadcast time on the main channel is highly rated educational programs for younger children: a high quality free resource to homes, in-home daycares and pre-schools. In recent tests approximately 18,000 unduplicated Vermont children between 2 and 11 were viewers. 2,000 individual teachers access Vermont PBS programming every year to provide educational opportunities in the classroom.

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> 4. Vermont PBS is a public safety participant. It maintains strategic mountaintop transmission sites for key communications providers and works with the Emergency Alert System for Homeland Security and the State of Vermont. Vermont PBS is the only video station with state-wide frequencies to serve the public in times of need. Now with its digital capacity, there are even more opportunities for utilizing Vermont PBS' non-commercial state-wide network.

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> 5. It is incredible to think that Vermont would even consider following the example of New Hampshire. When NH cut funding for its public television station in 2011 (a cut of \$2.7m and 1/3 staff), it lost local content and outsourced many functions to WGBH-Boston. Isn't local content important to Vermont? I live in Vermont and pay Vermont's high taxes because I thought Vermont was better than that.

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> 6. Finally, cutting Vermont PBS' \$550K state appropriation also will reduce its federal funding. The total impact of these combined cuts will ultimately be a yearly loss of approximately \$850,000 for Vermont PBS –

with devastating results.

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> Please support level funding for Vermont PBS.

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> Sincerely,

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> Patricia M. Sabalis