

## Theresa Utton-Jerman

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**Subject:** FW: FACT TV H.744 Testimony

To the Members of the House & Senate Committee on Appropriations:

My name is Debra Hamel, I live in Bellows Falls Vermont and I am a newer Board member for FACT TV.

I want to ask that you support Vermont Access Network & Community media in Vermont in the Fiscal year 2021 State Budget.

I am a firm believer in community tv and the fact that it is accessible to all in the public -- whether it is to be able to watch unique original programming or the ability to put your own show on the air.

Being that Community Access television stations are such small and local organizations, both solely and as a group, resources and monies are sparse to conduct the lawyer-level expertise needed to determine what authority the State has to assess broadband for public purposes.

I join in asking for \$100,000 for Right of Way Expert Analysis and recommendations to conduct a study as I just described, including to look into National examples for the Legislature to consider and for alternative models for revenue generation.

As a former elected and appointed official in both government and education, the fact that there are 25 Public, Educational and Government Access television organization serving Vermont is fantastic.

Imagine all of the citizens who get to see local political meetings, school board meetings and public hearings because of their local community public access stations.

Please vote in support of House Bill H 744 to continue to keep the best interests of Vermont residents as a priority.

Debra L Hamel  
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**Deb Hamel**

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