

Rebecca Buck

To: Jane Kitchel
Subject: RE: Vermont Access Network Testimony Concerning FY20 Appropriations Budget

From: Lauren-Glenn Davitian <davitian@cctv.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:33 AM
To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us; ktoll@leg.state.vt.us; Robert Starr; mtownsend@leg.state.vt.us; lmyers@leg.state.vt.us
Cc: Theresa Utton; sbarrett@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: Vermont Access Network Testimony Concerning FY20 Appropriations Budget

Dear Representative Toll and Senator Kitchel -

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the FY20 Budget Public Hearings this evening in person, but have submitted testimony for review by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

[Here is my testimony](#) regarding the FY2020 Budget, including a modest request for Study Committee attendance by 2-3 legislators.

This reflects action we have taken following our discussions in December concerning the erosion of PEG funding and threats to the Vermont's management of it's public rights-of-way.

We appreciate your consideration. Please let me know if you prefer this in another format.

My best and thanks, Lauren-Glenn 802-777-7542

--

[Free Speech for Change. Support Local Media & Contribute Today!](#)

Lauren-Glenn Davitian | Executive Director | davitian@cctv.org | 802.862.1645 x12

CCTV Center for Media & Democracy | cctv.org

CHANNEL 17/ TOWN MEETING TV & CCTV PRODUCTIONS



VERMONT ACCESS NETWORK

25 February 2019

MEMO TO: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee

FROM: Lauren-Glenn Davitian, CCTV Center for Media & Democracy

RE: State of Vermont Proposed FY20 Budget - Request for Study Committee Allocation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Vermont's FY20 Budget. I am sorry that I cannot join you this evening.

My name is Lauren-Glenn Davitian, Executive Director of CCTV Center for Media & Democracy based in Burlington Vermont. We operate Channel 17/ Town Meeting Television, serving Chittenden County.

We are proud to be part of a statewide organization known as Vermont Access Network which represents 25 community media centers across the state, operating more than 80 public, educational and government (PEG) access channels.

Collectively, with members of our communities, we generate 18,000 hours of local programs each year, and utilize more than \$8 million in cable subscriber fees to provide community based programming (including municipal meetings and election coverage, which you are likely familiar with), supplement public education with media literacy and school coverage, and provide an open first come, first served free speech forum.

The state of Vermont has advanced PEG access as a public good for 35 years. There are several threats facing the continued open access of these PEG channels and community media centers that knit our state together. These threats diminish both the state's authority to manage its public rights-of-ways (where cable lines run) and will compromise the vibrant local media network that serves communities across Vermont.

We have outlined [these threats](#) (coming from the FCC, federal courts and, soon, the Supreme Court) before several legislative committees and, as a way forward, have asked for a Study Committee to be established to examine these issues.

The House Energy and Technology Committee and Senate Finance Committee are currently looking at whether to include the [Study Committee](#) in legislation.

We are speaking tonight to let you know that this Study Committee is under consideration and it is likely that this Committee will require a modest appropriation to cover the participation of 2-3 legislators.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you for your consideration.

Documents for reference:

- [Testimony](#) 2/25
- [Overview of PEG Issues](#)
- [Study Committee](#) Draft Proposal

Contact Information:

Lauren-Glenn Davitian, CCTV | 294 North Winooski Avenue Burlington VT | 802.777.7542 | davitian@cctv.org