

# CATV

PEG (Public Education Government) Access Media Organization (AMO)

1 Gifford Road

White River Junction, VT 05001

**CATV8.org**

*Channeling the Upper Valley*

February 2, 2022

Dear Vermont State Legislators:

Thank you for receiving my testimony. My name is Samantha Davidson Green, and I currently serve as Executive Director of CATV, Community Access Television, the PEG/Access Media Organization serving the Upper Valley including the towns of Norwich, Hartford, and Hartland, Vermont.

I'm here today to join my colleagues at the Vermont Access Network and the 24 PEG TV community media centers across Vermont it represents in asking for your support for an appropriation of \$600,000 in FY2023.

Over the past year here at our "little-engine-that-could" community media center, we produced an estimated 900 hours of local government, school, town and special meetings, pivoting from virtual to hybrid to in-person formats – and back again as needed throughout the pandemic – to ensure continuous local government media coverage, support civic engagement, and keep our community connected. In 2021, more than 150 youth and community members participated in our media camps, media literacy and after-school programs, production labs, and film contests, empowering local people through media and sharing our stories that foster local identity and cohesion.

Declines in cable revenue are squeezing our already modest budgets for community media that strengthen our social fabric, democratic process, and civil society. We need the state's support to bridge this gap.

Please support the Vermont Access Network and our 24 PEG TV community media centers with an FY2023 appropriation of \$600,000.

Thank you for receiving my comments.

Sincerely,



Samantha Davidson Green  
Executive Director