



17 April 2024

MEMO TO: Rep. Michael McCarthy and Members of House Government Operations Committee

FROM: Lauren-Glenn Davitian, Vermont Access Network, davitian@cctv.org

RE: Testimony Related to S. 55: Amendment to Vermont's Open Meeting Law

My name is Lauren-Glenn Davitian and I serve as Public Policy Director for CCTV Center for Media + Democracy, based in Burlington and work on behalf of Vermont's 24 community media centers (also known as access management organizations "AMOs") which operate as Vermont Access Network ("VAN").

VAN is a statewide nonprofit organization that represents its members in matters of mutual concern, including the effective operation and advancement of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access services throughout the State. Please see: <https://vermontaccess.net/>

VAN members and the communities they serve have a strong vested interest in S. 55. We provide in person, remote and hybrid meeting coverage to dozens of local and regional public bodies across the state.

We are in general support of [S.55](#) and in particular of *Section 8: Working Group on Participation and Accessibility of Municipal Public Meetings and Elections*.

Given VAN's expertise in designing, implementing and operating public meeting coverage for more than 150 Vermont cities and towns we can offer expertise in these areas:

- a. Technical setup recommendations that are easy to use and feasible for a public body; and,
- b. Methods to make accessible and understandable the recording of the event/meeting both live and as an archival asset; and,
- c. Procedures to make make meetings/events accessible and inclusive.

Thank you for your consideration and effort to open the doors of local democracy to all.