

From: Tammie Reilly <tammie@gnat-tv.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:03 PM
To: Testimony 2023 <Testimony2023@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: [External] FY2024 Budget Request

[External]

TO: testimony2023@leg.state.vt.us

FROM: Tammie Reilly
Greater Northshire Access Television, Inc.

RE: FY2024 Budget

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony for the FY2024 budget. My name is Tammie Reilly, I serve on the Vermont Access Network board of directors, and I am the Executive Director of Greater Northshire Access Television, also known as GNAT-TV. We are a regional PEG access organization serving 11 towns in and around the Manchester area including: (Arlington, Dorset, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Stratton, Sunderland, Weston, Winhall).

I am here today to ask for support of the Vermont Access Network - our state's 24 Community Media (PEG TV) Centers - with a one-time bridge funding appropriation of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024, as third-year of bridge funding to a secure funding stream to replace declining cable revenues.

Community members depend on GNAT-TV for trustworthy local information and open access to local government proceedings that impact their daily lives, we often hear from citizens that we are the most thorough source and sometimes the only source for local election information.

Nonprofit organizations, schools, students and teachers utilize our media education services, and we provide a lasting archive of community events and culture for generations to come.

As commercial media outlets focus on more global audiences, local community media centers provide vital communication services for citizens, connect them to their government and to one another. Please consider VAN's Fiscal Year 2024 budget request. Vermonters from all walks of life rely on community media to be informed, engaged and inspired. Thank you.

Tammie M. Reilly
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Connecting Community, Empowering People
Comcast Cable Channels 1074, 1084, 1094