



5 February 2026

Dear Members of the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

We are writing for your approval of the full FY27 funding requested by Vermont Access Network (VAN) and Vermont Community Radio Network for \$1.89M.

The Governor's FY27 Budget Proposal recommends level funding at the FY26 budget amount of \$1.35M. While we are very fortunate to be included, \$1.35M is not sufficient to replenish the coming year's funding gap due to lost cable revenue (8%+) and increased expenses (COLA). Nor does it help provide adequate resources to supplement the operations of Vermont's community radio stations.

Our additional budget request of \$540,000 is not simply a means of bridging a funding deficit. It means that 24 public access stations and nine community radio stations across Vermont can continue to provide reliable communications services to our communities without any lapse in quality or quantity. That's thousands of hours in local meetings, sporting events, news, concerts, presentations, weather, emergency communications, media education, community archives and just about anything that falls under Vermonter's needs for community communications.

It is important to note that the Vermont Secretary of State recommended that we partner with nine community radio stations across Vermont to help normalize and assure their additional funding as well. This partnership benefits local media organizations financially and assists residents of Vermont to access important information in a timely manner.

We hope you see the benefit of funding VAN and Community Radio's FY27 request of \$1.89M fully so our 31 combined community media organizations can continue

to provide dependable local communications and operate reliably, as we have for decades.

Thank you for your time and efforts to approve additional funding for community media in FY27.

On behalf of VAN and Vermont Community Radio Network,

Paul Snyder

Paul Snyder
Executive Director
Northwest Access TV
director@northwestaccess.tv
P: 802.782.8676