

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Anne O'Brien <aobrien@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 9:46 AM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Angelike Contis  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking this input from Richmond on the review of Comcast. We are very grateful that the system is in place to pay for this important communication tool for our town. This letter is in support of our Public Access Television programs offered by MMCTV and the PEGs around the state. Seniors in our community use MMCTV to view the local town selectboard and other meetings on a regular basis. I have a program "Ask the Experts" which brings issues from the legislature to the local level also. The local TV station offers a wonderful opportunity for media training for students and adults and also a strong connection to archiving the history of our town.

The service that our local station provides is outstanding and keeps our community strong and connected.

With Comcast up for renewal our community would ask the PSB to address these issues with Comcast.

- 1) Electronic Program Guide- they should list the programs available not just say local channel.
- 2) High Definition- the technology has moved forward and it should be the same for public access.
- 3) Remote Origination sites- this is required and yet not done.
- 4) Asking Comcast to promote the local stations on cable TV stations to expand their visibility.

Sincerely,

Rep. Anne O'Brien

Chittenden-1

Richmond, Vermont



**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** Judy Murphy <judymurphy336@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 5:04 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Docket #8301

Judy Murphy  
336 Chester Knoll Drive  
Bennington, VT 05201  
802-442-8816

[judymurphy336@comcast.net](mailto:judymurphy336@comcast.net)

October 16, 2015

Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
Vermont Dept. of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

RE: Docket #8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am a resident of Bennington and active on the boards of several non-profits, including Second Chance Animal Center. I am also actively involved with the Democratic Party locally.

Today I am writing to you about our local cable access station, Catamount Access Television or CAT-TV as we refer to it here. I am concerned that our cable station will continue to be relevant and accessible as technology changes.

CAT-TV has provided the community with local information, with vital information as it covers the meetings of local governments, has helped children and adults to learn media technology, and provided the means for people in the area to communicate their ideas and give information on local issues. We depend on the Bulletin Board to alert us of community events.

To enable Vermont's cable providers to meet the fast-growing technologies of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and ensure that everyone has access to local community media as intended by the Federal Cable Act of 1984, I would ask the Public Service Board consider favorably the three points listed below.

1. That the Public Service Board require Comcast to air local PEG programs in HD.
2. That the Public Service Board require Comcast to list local programs on the Interactive Program Guide. ("Guide" button on Comcast remotes.)
3. That the Public Service Board enable live broadcasts from anywhere in our community.

I thank you for your work and your concern on the issues brought forward in this letter.

Sincerely,

Judy Murphy

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** Rick Heh <rickheh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:01 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Angelike Contis  
**Subject:** Appreciate the Value of MMCTV

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

October 29, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information

Vermont Public Service Department

112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. MMCTV and organizations like it across the state offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

As a member of the Underhill community I and my fellow residents applaud MMCTV for providing much needed and appreciated coverage of local events. As a community based service provider MMCTV has allowed average individuals the opportunity to create unique and wonderful programming such as "Community Builders Interviews" and "Two Towns Garden Tours". As the Chair of Underhill's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary yearlong celebration, MMCTV recorded our main events including burial of 3,000lb time capsule, to broadcast to the wider community, plus preserve as valuable record for the future.

MMCTV provides a vital service recording local government and politics. As an Underhill Selectboard member we depend on the recording and documentation of our detailed and occasion lengthy proceedings. It is also of increasing value to have visibility to bordering town's issues, methods and resolutions.

MMCTV has worked hard and has become a reliable and available source of information to Chittenden County. We greatly appreciate the resourcefulness and professionalism of this organization.

I encourage you to support VAN's and MMCTV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rick Heh

Resident Town of Underhill, Selectman, Chair 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Historical Society

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Robert Low <rlow@uvm.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 31, 2015 4:11 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Angelike Contis  
**Subject:** MMCTVRichmond  
**Attachments:** MMCTV email-103115.docx

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms Peterson:

Please see below. Also attached.

Bob

October 30, 2015

Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I write this email to explain the importance of MMCTV programming to me and to the communities it serves. I watch MMCTV regularly.

I have lived in Richmond for some 45 years and have been active in Richmond Community affairs in terms of having been a member of the Planning Commission, the DRB, the Conservation Commission and Town Plan committees. I also have been involved throughout my professional career as an educator at the University of Vermont and through service on the MMU School Board.

There are several values MMCTV brings to our community. They include the following.

MMCTV provides an essential informational conduit for community affairs through the unfiltered broadcasts of Selectboard and other meetings. Those meetings, with rare exception, are sparsely attended, leveraging the importance of having video broadcasts available to us all. More than once, I not only have taken actions from watching MMCTV regarding community affairs that I otherwise

would not have, but also have been able to obtain copies of videos from certain meetings for use in a number of different settings related to DRB and Selectboard affairs. I have from time to time reminded such Boards of decisions and positions they have taken when memory otherwise has seemed faint.

This benefit carries beyond Richmond itself by providing input to the affairs of other communities MMCTV serves. Details of affairs before communities surrounding us certainly are different. However, many of the core problems we face are the same or similar; and it has proven most helpful to hear the opinions of others as to how they should (or should not) be approached.

MMCTV continues to provide educational opportunities for our youth to be artists, performers and producers, the last for example through Memory Map history projects completed not long ago; educating our community of MMCTV watchers along the way. Together with this, among others, are offerings illustrating local talents for our communities.

Finally from a more technical point of view, Comcast provision of HD cablecasting as compared with SD has brought added value.

All this has caused me to conclude that MMCTV continues to be an essential tool for community building, for enabling understanding of our sense of place, for informing, for celebrating community accomplishments, for providing educational opportunity.

It is for these reasons that I believe that Comcast's Certificate of Public Good must be renewed.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Low

2144 Wes White Hill

Richmond, VT

05477

[bob.low@uvm.edu](mailto:bob.low@uvm.edu)



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Irene Wrenner <imwren@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 11:33 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

From a neighbor ...

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gregory Tomasulo <gregorytomasulo@gmail.com>  
**To:** imwren <imwren@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thu, Oct 22, 2015 12:12 pm  
**Subject:** Re: PSB seeks feedback on Comcast

Dear Irene, I am an Essex Junction resident living in the Fairview Farms neighborhood, and a Comcast customer. My wife is a member of Front Porch Forum, where your request for feedback was posted. We have had terrible experiences with Comcast and do not like doing business with them (I'll spare you the lengthy details). Unfortunately, they are the only provider of true high-speed internet available. I would strongly urge the selectboard and other government agencies to push for policies that allow companies to compete in this market. If there was an alternative high speed internet provider I would switch in a heartbeat. Until then please do not extend their monopoly for another 11 years! This length of time seems incredibly excessive, and completely extinguishes any incentive to provide good services or customer care.

As far as cable TV is concerned I watch very little and subscribe to the minimum number of channels. With this plan, we get local channels in standard definition resolution. I think this is appalling, considering the FCC has mandated that local channels broadcast HD signals over the air. Essentially, I am paying for something that is available for free with an antenna, which I would prefer not to have to install on the roof of my house.

Thank you for taking the time to solicit and read this feedback.

Sincerely,  
Greg Tomasulo

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** VT Homespun <vermonthomespun@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 7:58 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I would like Comcast to provide cable service to all areas of Vermont.  
At 1059 Bailey Hill, Readsboro, VT, we have no cable tv, no cell phone service, and no high-speed internet.  
Thank you.

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Lizzy Sheehan <maglizzy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 6:12 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB docket #8301 Comcast renewal

I understand Comcast is up for a contract renewal for cable in VT. I have had nothing but problems with the company since we got on board last year. They hold a HUGE monopoly over services (whatever happened to anti-trust regulations?). They are too big to meet customer service demands and requests. I have been caught in lengthy wait times while on the phone, being bounced from one person to another. Oftentimes I have been sent to call centers where it is extremely difficult to understand what the CS rep is saying due to their accents. Additionally, I find that I can get several different answers for the very same question. Comcast is so big that they seem to be unable to train their employees properly. Whether the issue has been: poor reception, a weak WIFI connection, ridiculously high and unreasonable rates, or setting up an auto deduct for payments, I have never gotten a satisfactory answers or resolutions. I have been looking to find another company who could provide us with quality service and programming, but it doesn't seem that there is one out there. Xfinity now has taken over Comcast.

Do we have any other viable options here in VT?

Thank you for hearing me out.

--

Shifts Happen

Elizabeth A Sheehan (AKA Liz/zy)  
216.317.3756

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** bcingu6of6@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, September 07, 2015 6:59 PM  
**To:** PSD - Consumer  
**Subject:** comcast prices

To whom it may concern:

I would just like to voice my opinion that as a retired Vermonter I feel that the Comcast prices for services are very high, out of control, and that TV, internet and phone are soon going to be out of reach for us.

Thank you, Carol Mowery. PO box 59, Randolph Center VT 05061

COMMISSIONER  
TEL. NO. 802-244-8718  
FAX NO. 802-241-5377

DIRECTOR  
VERMONT STATE POLICE  
TEL. NO. 802-244-7345  
FAX NO. 802-241-5551

DIRECTOR  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES  
TEL. NO. 802-244-8786  
FAX NO. 802-241-5557

DIRECTOR  
VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
TEL. NO. 802-244-8721  
FAX NO. 802-241-5556



STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
103 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WATERBURY, VERMONT 05671-2101  
[www.dps.state.vt.us](http://www.dps.state.vt.us)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
FAX NO. 802-241-5553

INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
TEL. NO. 802-244-5194  
FAX NO. 802-241-5377

SEARCH & RESCUE  
TEL. NO. 802-241-5656  
FAX NO. 802-241-5551

LEGAL COUNSEL  
TEL. NO. 802-244-6941  
FAX NO. 802-241-5377

October 30, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. MMCTV and organizations like it across the state offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, entertainment, and in our case dissemination of public safety information.

I have worked personally with Jim Hering at MMCTV on a collaborative project to develop a public educational video on backcountry skier safety. Each year numerous skiers go out of bounds and get lost, requiring extensive and extensive search and rescue efforts. Preventative efforts, such as the video that we produced with Mr. Hering's assistance help us in this effort. This programming was widely used by other public access stations throughout Vermont, and I received a lot of positive feedback from member of the public who saw it. This type of exposure would simply not be available to us without the VAN.

I encourage you to support VAN's and MMCTV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

*Neil Van Dyke*

Neil Van Dyke  
Search & Rescue Coordinator

Dianne Shullenberger 228 Nashville Rd Jericho VT 05465

10/30/15

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. MMCTV and organizations like it across the state offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

MMCTV comes to my gallery every spring to video a presentation called DELICIOUS WORDS. They have been doing this for several years to make the presentation available to people that can't attend the event. It is a program featuring poets, writers, storytellers and visual artists. The community can then appreciate their talented neighbors. *This is a lovely service.*

I encourage you to support VAN's and MMCTV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dianne Shullenberger

CP

Richard Neugass  
12 Sargent Street  
Norwich, VT 05055  
802-649-5245  
October 26, 2015

Ms. Christine Peterson  
CAPI Division -- re: Docket 8301  
VT Dept. of Public Service  
12 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602


Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am an Upper Valley community member contacting you on behalf of our Community Access TV station, CATV 8/10. CATV serves five towns in the Upper Valley including Hartford, Norwich and Hartland, Vermont, and Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

CATV provides unique televised coverage of town and school meetings and local events, all with countless hours of citizen produced local programming. CATV also provides media education camps, a great opportunity for kids to learn the nuts-and-bolts of the newest technology. CATV also provides thousands of community announcements, and an effective venue for nonprofits to advance their mission. In short, CATV offers a platform for free speech and civic engagement.

I would like CATV to be on par with other channels. CATV should be able to broadcast in HD resolution, be listed in the Electronic Programming Guide, and be able to originate live programming from anywhere in the community.

Please help CATV and other Vermont Community Access Stations remain leaders in community media and stay relevant and accessible in the next dawn of cable television. It is imperative that cable providers meet the obligations as intended by Federal regulators in the 1984 Cable Act. The time is now to update the regulations to meet the fast growing technologies of the 21st century.

Sincerely, 

Richard Neugass  
Norwich, VT

2015 NOV - 3 A 9:46  
VT DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05620-2501

September 3, 2015

Christine L. Peterson, Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson:

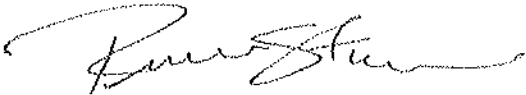
I am writing to express my concerns with the Certificate of Public Good renewal for Comcast and the continued need of public, educational, and governmental services (PEG) provided through our local access channel Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV).

I appeal to Vermont regulators to ensure that cable providers meet the obligations of providing high-quality service. Over 80% of cable subscribers in Vermont are served by Comcast. Comcast needs to invest in the region by providing high-definition programming, cable guide updates, and faster internet speed as it is in the best interest of the public. The bottom line: PEG channels need to be on equal footing with basic commercial channels.

As the Public Service Board, you must keep public television appealing to local audiences. Community members rely on public access TV. Through public access television, citizens are informed and can participate in local issues, promoting civic engagement and openness in local government. Services provided by BCTV are essential to the region.

Whatever efforts the Department of Public Service can provide to Vermont residents to ensure cable operators provide service upgrades for our local access channels will be much appreciated. The Department needs to redefine regulations and set higher standards for public access television in order to protect its future. Thank you for taking these thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Stone, Town Administrator  
Town of Guilford, Vermont



VERMONT  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
05620-2601

2015 OCT 21 A 9:10

101 Tanglewood Drive  
Colchester, VT 05446  
October 20, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

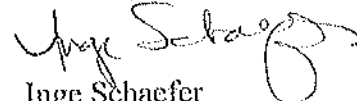
Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN) and specifically, of member Access Management Organization Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. In my opinion, LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer the community the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse and entertainment.

LCATV allows me the opportunity to keep up with my local Select Board and School Board meetings which are often difficult for me to personally attend. The local events that I might attend -- such as our annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade -- I will later have a chance to view again because LCATV is there, and seeing the Parade again always gives me pleasure. I appreciate all the opportunities they offer our young students who wish to learn more about producing, directing and using television programming equipment. They are always willing to listen to new ideas and to work with locals on developing new programming. For instance, when they were approached to help produce a video history of Colchester, they not only agreed to help, but spent literally hundreds of hours bringing the project to fruition. You might want to view the DVD, which is available at their Colchester office. Our community would simply not be as vibrant without them.

I encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain alive and well for years to come in providing essential local media outlets.

Sincerely,



Inge Schaefer  
Colchester resident

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.

65620-2601 3302 Vermont Route 7A Arlington, Vermont 05250-8875

**Donald B. Keelan**  
*Certified Public Accountant*

CP

2015 OCT -6 A 9:40

Vermont Access Network  
Ms. Elizabeth Malone  
P.O. Box 408  
St. Albans, Vermont 05478

Vermont Dept. of Public Service  
Ms. Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

RE: Docket #8301

Dear Ms. Malone and Ms. Peterson:

I am writing to you on behalf of GNAT-TV and the above reference docket #.

Several years ago, the Vermont General Assembly passed a resolution (HCR-81) and bestowed upon me an honor for having hosted for five years, Q & A Live from GNAT's studio in Manchester, Vermont. The resolution was not so much about what I had accomplished but more about what the show meant to the greater Bennington County community.

I call this to your attention because during the ensuing years, GNAT has only gotten more professional in its delivering of a vital public service to our community. It accomplishes this not only by providing us with an access to the county's various school board and town board meetings---but also to airing a vast amount of cultural programs. Add to this the fact that GNAT also provides training to a vast number of our school age children and adults in the field of programming and technical knowhow in putting on a TV program.

We here in southwestern Vermont stand to lose our two major local newspapers or at a minimum witness a cutback in reporting. I see a greater need for the information now provided by GNAT in the short-term future. If anything, I foresee a vast increase in the services that GNAT will need to be providing if we are to fill the void that will surely come when there is diminution in our area's print media.

I hope that this helps in your review of the services that GNAT provides to us here in southwestern Vermont?

Sincerely,



Donald B. Keelan, CPA

October 1, 2015

Phone (802) 375-6479

Fax (802) 375-6882

e-mail: dbkeelan@comcast.net

# Volunteers in Action

connecting neighbors with needs and people who care

P. O. Box 707 • Windsor, Vermont 05089

802-674-5971

October 14, 2015

Christine L. Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms Peterson,

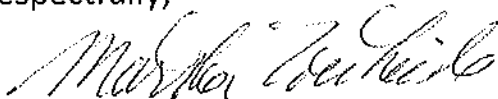
2015 OCT 20 A 9:37

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05602-2601

On behalf of Volunteers in Action , I would like to give my support to funding Windsor on Air in Windsor Vermont. Since there is no local paper or other means of communicating with local residents, WOA is a very practical way of getting our message out. Volunteers in Action has on several occasions giving talks explaining what we do which is connecting neighbors with people who need rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping as well as organizing Meals on Wheels and three Community Meals a month. We find WOA is a very efficient way to find these volunteers which helps our elder and fragile neighbors live at home in good health. It also helps to spread the word about our services to those who are house bound.

Paula Wehde has been very helpful and supportive to us and we have always been very thankful for her kind assistance.

Respectfully,



Martha Zoerheide

Director, Volunteers in Action



MT. ASCUTNEY HOSPITAL  
AND HEALTH CENTER

Christine L. Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I understand that your Department is hosting a focus group meeting here in Brattleboro regarding Comcast's application for renewal of its Certificate of Public Good. While I am unable to participate in the meeting in person, I did want to share a few thoughts with you as they relate to our local cable access channel, Brattleboro Community TV.

First, you should know that my bank has a long history of supporting BCTV. We believe resolutely in its mission to provide a means by which the public can create and broadcast content relevant to our communities, as well as providing access to recorded governmental meetings that for many is their only means—other than perhaps a distilled version in the newspaper—of knowing what local municipal governments are doing.

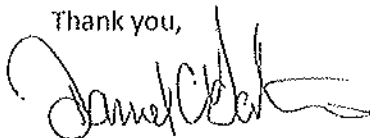
As a personal subscriber to Comcast, I regularly avail myself of the programming offered on either Channel 8 or 10. In the case of the former, I often tune into shows such as Democracy Now! or some of the informational programming that is broadcast about matters affecting our area (SAFSTOR Matters) or the country. This channel is also great to get a recap through video of events in our area, such as Strolling of the Heifers or the Fourth of July Parade to name a couple.

In the case of Channel 10, this channel affords me the ability to watch select portions of local governmental meetings, whether at the selectboard level or certain other committees, such as planning committee meetings that often go late into the night, but I can watch them after the fact, a great convenience for me.

We are in a part of the State that has virtually no mass media television coverage; I don't waste my time watching WCAX as it's rare to ever see something that has anything to do with this corner of Vermont, and if there is, generally speaking BCTV probably shot the video for them.

We need BCTV, and we need Comcast to give them the same kind of consideration as the mass media stations. This means including them on their online guide, broadcasting the channels in HD, and making sure they (Comcast) make the necessary ongoing investment in infrastructure and technology here to ensure quality access.

Thank you,



Daniel C. Yates  
President & CEO



September 8, 2015

Christine L. Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
[christine.peterson@vermont.gov](mailto:christine.peterson@vermont.gov)

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am a member of Brattleboro Community Television's board of directors, but I am also writing in my capacity as news director/talk radio show host for WKVT, one of the commercial radio stations in the town of Brattleboro.

BCTV is an invaluable resource for the local media, where many of us are charged with staying on top of events and issues in all the towns within its coverage area, as well as topics that impact the state as a whole. Their live and archived coverage of Windham County make it possible for us to essentially be in multiple places at once and report on what transpires.

As you evaluate Comcast's renewal request for a Certificate of Public Good, I hope you will bear in mind the following technological aspects that could further enhance BCTV's value to viewers:

\*Program guide - The lack of this functionality seriously inhibits my ability to find out when certain items are being replayed and setting the DVR to capture them.

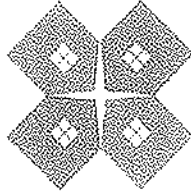
\*HD Channel - High definition improves quality of the audio as well as the picture. It makes hearing what is being said clearer for better reporting and sound capture.

\*Faster speed/connectivity - This would enable BCTV to have programs uploaded and available in a more timely manner, as well as improve quality of streaming services and programs archived in its on-demand service.

You know how much Vermonters value "local" — whether it's food, art or commerce. Please do what you can to ensure that BCTV and other community stations have the ability to grow and adapt to changing technologies so it may continue to be good providers of local media.

Regards,

Chris Lenois  
Host/producer  
"Green Mountain Mornings"  
WKVT 100.3 FM/1490AM  
Brattleboro, VT



Brattleboro Housing  
PARTNERSHIPS

Christine L. Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

September 8, 2015

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am writing on behalf of our organization to express strong support for our local community cable station, BCTV. I understand that BCTV is included in the review of Comcast.

BCTV is a critical means of information for our over 500 low income residents and program participants in the Brattleboro area. Our monthly Commissioner meetings are taped and shown at various times over BCTV as well as now available through web streaming. Many of our residents are elderly, families with young children and/or disabled. They rely on BCTV to keep up with what is happening at BHP and in their neighborhoods. We rely on the broadcasting of our meetings to pass along a wide variety of resident information.

Additionally, our residents rely a great deal on the community broadcasting done by BCTV to watch community events from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to Town Meeting. This is a very important means for many in the community to remain engaged and informed of what is going on in their Town.

BCTV needs to be as up to date in terms of technology as possible in order to remain the viable and reliable information source it has become. Viewers need to be able to access the program schedule on Comcast's cable guide as many do not receive a local paper, further, BCTV and its counterparts across the State, need to be on and using the latest technology possible. Even though BCTV does so much now, it could do even more if it were not a lag behind on the technology front.

On behalf of our residents and many others who rely on this outstanding local station, I hope you will recognize its needs to remain current and definitely supported as we go further in our technological world.

Very truly yours,

Christine H. Hart  
Executive Director

PO Box 7275, Brattleboro, Vermont 05303

p: 802-254-6071 f: 802-254-5590 [brattleborohousing.org](http://brattleborohousing.org)



Equal Housing Opportunity *A reasonable accommodation procedure is available for people with disabilities who wish to request modification in our programs, policies or procedures.* • Vermont Relay Service 800-253-0191





Franklin Grand Isle  
Tobacco Prevention Coalition

133 Fairfield St.  
St. Albans, Vermont 05478  
(802) 524-1296

---

November 9, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Northwest Access Television (NWATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. NWATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

The Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition has worked hard over the past 15 years to impact tobacco use within Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Helping to connect the public with information about tobacco, its effects and how to effectively quit are essential to our function. NWATV has been an essential part of that puzzle. As a community agency, they demonstrate a thorough understanding of how their work can support the health of the community. They have always been willing to collaborate and provide expertise, and that has been important tobacco control outreach.

Additionally, as we work with municipalities to change municipal-level tobacco policy, we have experienced the strength of having NWATV present at Selectboard, Trustee and City Council Meetings. Their work adds to the transparency of local governing and that is a true benefit to all.

I encourage you to support VAN's and NWATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Brewer, MPH, CHES  
Coalition Coordinator



St. Albans Historical Society & Museum

November 8, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

RE: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Northwest Access Television (NWATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. NWATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

Our community depends on locally-produced programming to stay informed and engaged about issues, resources, ideas, and news that impact where we live and work.

I encourage you to support VAN's and NWATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Alex Lehning, MA  
Executive Director





# BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

75 Hunt Street  
Fairfax, VT 05454  
Phone 802-849-6711  
Fax 802-849-2611  
www.bfafairfax.com

John T. Tague, High School Principal  
Thomas J. Walsh, Elementary/Middle School Principal  
Geri-Lyn Witalec, Pre K-8 Assistant Principal/Athletic Director 7-12



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Carpenter, Chair    Rachelle LeVau    Jasen Boyd    Paula Dearborn, Clerk    Scott Mitchell  
Jake Hakey, Student Rep    Meadow Linderman, Student Rep

October 30, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

Our school has been a part of an on going project with LCATV's educational outreach programming. Each year students in my public speaking course work for two weeks with LCATV producing Infomercials to demonstrate their understanding and proficiency in argumentative writing and speaking. The partnership with LCATV gives the students an authentic audience and clear purpose for their infomercials. Our school has also utilized LCATV to create public service announcements to encourage student voting. "My Vote Is My Voice" was an engaging project which improved our student voter turnout at the polls, increasing our students' involvement in the civic voting process.

I encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Sara Villeneuve  
High School English Teacher

2015 NOV - 2 P 10: 29  
VT PUBLIC SERVICE  
112 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05620-2601

*Committed to ensuring all students become informed, literate, critical thinkers who demonstrate responsible social and civic behaviors.*



STATE OF VERMONT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05633-5201

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05620-2601

2015 OCT 29 A 9:37

Vermont Department of Public Service  
Christine Pearson, CAPI Division  
RE: Docket #8301  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

10/26/15

Dear Ms Pearson,

I am writing in support of Catamount Access Television Corp (CAT-TV) in Bennington, Vermont.

I have been associated with CAT-TV for many years as a resident and in my role as a former Selectboard member and now as a State Legislator from Bennington 3: Shaftsbury, Glastenbury and Sunderland.

CAT TV provides an invaluable service to my community and the region at large. It informs and educates our citizens about local, community, and state affairs. So many senior citizens and others who cannot attend meetings listen regularly to their excellent and diverse programs. They cover forums that describe and explain the latest legislation coming out of Montpelier, select board and school board meetings from all the towns, and special events. When residents in my district vote, we know what we are voting about, thanks to CAT-TV.

I strongly support the continuation of this invaluable public service, in fact, I cannot imagine our area without it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Miller".

Alice Miller  
Vermont State Representative  
Bennington 3  
802 430 1615  
amiller@leg.state.vt.us

**Rev. Elizabeth Griffin**  
*Fairfax, VT*

RECEIVED  
Vermont Public Service  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05620-2601

2015 OCT 30 A 9:04

October 20, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

My experiences with LCATV have been brief, but positive. Several years ago I was responsible for a local arts and crafts event, Art in Bloom, in Fairfax, Vermont. A technician from LCATV came, interviewed me, went about the site, interviewed and filmed others to be broadcast later. This provided those who could not attend an opportunity to see what was going on, and if provided the event with promotion for future Art in Bloom shows.

This year, Kevin from LCATV, at my request, came and spent several hours filming at the Arnold Zlotoff Tool Museum at the Apple Island Resort. He made a wonderful video about the museum and had many shots of the various tools on display. I have had many positive comments about this video.

I surely support the work LCATV is doing in and for our communities. For those house bound, or with limited opportunities, this station provides opportunities to find out about what is happening.

Thank you,

Rev. Elizabeth Griffin



# TOWN of WINDSOR

29 Union Street - Windsor, Vermont 05089

[www.windsorvt.org](http://www.windsorvt.org)

October 14, 2015

Ms. Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

RE: Comcast CPG

Dear Ms. Peterson;

Windsor on Air provides a critical service to the greater Windsor community. Their ability to broadcast municipal meetings and public service programs is a key component to our municipal outreach strategy. The service is most appreciated by our elderly community that is less apt to use other forms of electronic communication.

I strongly support the continued access to Windsor on Air and other like services throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Marsh  
Town Manager, Windsor



CP

STATE OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
855-280-2601

STATE OF VERMONT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE  
115 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05633-5201

2015 OCT 23 P 4:02

October 12, 2015

Vermont Department of Public Service  
Attn: Christine Peterson  
CAPI Division  
Re: Docket #8301  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am enthusiastically writing a letter of support for our local access television station CAT-TV. CAT-TV has a long and proud history of providing a vast array of programming that benefits its viewers. Program coverage consists of education, government, local and regional board meetings and forums, local and regional stories of interest, local church services for those who are unable to attend, a calendar of notices of events in our region, and timely emergency information when needed.

Our local access channels across the state are indeed a public good. It is a way for citizens to be further connected with their communities even if they are physically not able to do so. I can only hope that other access channels are run as well as ours in Bennington. Our Executive Director and her staff are always looking to improve and broaden their programming so that there is a public forum for free speech, civic engagement, and an important alternative from the monopolized media sources.

In closing, as a regulator, I strongly encourage you to continue to ensure that our communities have access to local, unfettered community media by continuing to certify our local access channel as a common good for our communities and our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Should you need any further information, please contact me at 802-379-5439 or [mmorrissey@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:mmorrissey@leg.state.vt.us).

Sincerely,

*Rep. Mary A. Morrissey*

Rep. Mary A. Morrissey  
Bennington



STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
05620-2601

2015 OCT 26 A 9:12

LCIEDC  
P.O. Box 213  
North Hero, VT 05474

(802) 372 8400

www.ChamplainIslands.com

October 19, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

As the new Executive Director of a regional economic development corporation in Grand Isle County, I have used the LCATV's recordings to better understand the issues in the five communities I serve. Without this vital service, our small rural towns would be left without documented media coverage and the information source we so desperately need to stay informed and connected to each other.

I encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jan Marinelli

Executive Director

LAMOILLE UNION HIGH SCHOOL

736 VT 15 WEST  
HYDE PARK, VERMONT 05655

(802) 888-4261  
FAX (802) 888-2997

BRIAN SCHAFFER  
PRINCIPAL

DANA JEWETT  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

*Building a community prepared for the choices and challenges of life.*

October 16, 2015

Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am writing to you to express my continued support for GMATV.

I understand that public access through GMATV exists due to an agreement between the cable company Comcast and the communities it serves. I also understand Comcast is applying for a renewal of its Certificate of Public Good (CPG) so it can continue operating in the state of Vermont. GMATV does a fine job providing relevant and timely public access to our community.

Lamoille Union High School has been pleased to have GMATV as a community partner for years. The station is an integral part of our school community, which provides educational access to media that students and families might not have otherwise. There are two distinct benefits we see from this partnership: GMATV regularly records and broadcasts school events such as graduation, award presentations, LNSU Spelling Bee, and holiday concerts. Additionally, students regularly visit the studio to learn about filming, quality control, and production.

If we did not have this relationship with GMATV, we would be depriving our community public access and limiting educational opportunities for our learners.

I wish to see this partnership continue, and I will continue to support GMATV for the benefit they bring.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Schaffer  
Principal  
Lamoille Union High School

2015 OCT 23 A 9:13  
STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05602-2501

CP

# JACOBS LAW OFFICES, L.L.C.

Telephone: 802-442-8503  
Facsimile: 1-802-779-0149  
www.jacobslawvt.com

THOMAS H. JACOBS, ESQ.  
204 SOUTH STREET  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

*Paralegals*  
KATHLEEN A. JAHNE  
PAULA M. MEERWARTH

October 15, 2015

Vermont Dept. of Public Service  
Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
RE: Docket #8301  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Public Service Board Public Hearing Docket #8301


Dear Board members:

I am writing you to advance my support for CAT-TV as you consider the above referenced matter. CAT-TV has offered and continues to provide our community with access to matters of local importance. As Chair of the Bennington Select Board I have been repeatedly reminded by my fellow citizens who follow select board meeting that they rely on CAT-TV to stay in touch with the governance of our special community.

The staff of Catamount Access Television from its Executive Director to the camera personnel in the field are readily accessible to provide unfettered community access.

I urge you to do what you can under the law to assure that this asset is provided with all of the tools necessary to carry out its mission.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Jacobs  
Chair Bennington Select Board

cc: Lisa M. Byer, Executive Director - CAT-TV

2015 OCT 23 A 9:14  
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
CAPI DIVISION  
112 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT 05602



U



**Colchester**  
VERMONT

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05620-2601

761 Blakely Road • P.O. Box 55 • Colchester, Vermont • 05426 • 802.264.8500  
2015 OCT 23 A 4 19

[www.colchester.gov](http://www.colchester.gov)

October 19, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,


We are writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and more specifically of member Access Management Organization Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

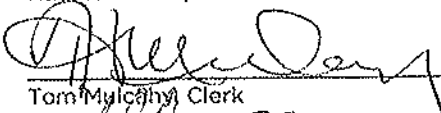
We rely on LCATV for dependable coverage and broadcasting of our Selectboard meetings every month and to make available to the public a video library of our meetings for easy and convenient access. LCATV provides a vital public service to Colchester residents and Town staff alike.

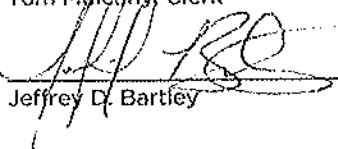
We encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

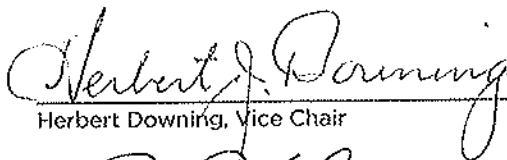
Sincerely,


The Colchester Selectboard

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine Scibek, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Mulcahy, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey D. Bartley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Herbert Downing, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Landry

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn H. Francis, Town Manager

October 30, 2015

Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I write this email to explain the importance of MMCTV programming to me and to the communities it serves. I watch MMCTV regularly.

I have lived in Richmond for some 45 years and have been active in Richmond Community affairs in terms of having been a member of the Planning Commission, the DRB, the Conservation Commission and Town Plan committees. I also have been involved throughout my professional career as an educator at the University of Vermont and through service on the MMU School Board.

There are several values MMCTV brings to our community. They include the following.

MMCTV provides an essential informational conduit for community affairs through the unfiltered broadcasts of Selectboard and other meetings. Those meetings, with rare exception, are sparsely attended, leveraging the importance of having video broadcasts available to us all. More than once, I not only have taken actions from watching MMCTV regarding community affairs that I otherwise would not have, but also have been able to obtain copies of videos from certain meetings for use in a number of different settings related to DRB and Selectboard affairs. I have from time to time reminded such Boards of decisions and positions they have taken when memory otherwise has seemed faint.

This benefit carries beyond Richmond itself by providing input to the affairs of other communities MMCTV serves. Details of affairs before communities surrounding us certainly are different. However, many of the core problems we face are the same or similar; and it has proven most helpful to hear the opinions of others as to how they should (or should not) be approached.

MMCTV continues to provide educational opportunities for our youth to be artists, performers and producers, the last for example through Memory Map history projects completed not long ago; educating our community of MMCTV watchers along the way. Together with this, among others, are offerings illustrating local talents for our communities.

Finally from a more technical point of view, Comcast provision of HD cablecasting as compared with SD has brought added value.

All this has caused me to conclude that MMCTV continues to be an essential tool for community building, for enabling understanding of our sense of place, for informing, for celebrating community accomplishments, for providing educational opportunity.

It is for these reasons that I believe that Comcast's Certificate of Public Good must be renewed.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Low  
2144 Wes White Hill  
Richmond, VT  
05477  
bob.low@uvm.edu



Northeast Organic Farming Association  
of Vermont  
*Growing local farms, healthy food, and strong communities  
in Vermont since 1971.*



October 30, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. MMCTV and organizations like it across the state offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

In 2013, I approached the staff at MMCTV in Richmond to investigate the possibility of recording a series of workshops for farmers. Since then, we have partnered with MMCTV to produce over 50 videos broadcast throughout Vermont of interest to farmers, gardeners, homesteaders and anyone interested in local agriculture and the food system.

We have also reached out to partnering non-profit organizations, such as Migrant Justice and Rural Vermont, to encourage them to utilize the services of their local public access stations. This has resulted in the production of PSAs and the live streaming of events, raising awareness of and access to the important work these organizations do.

Despite the productive partnership we have developed, it has been frustrating to not be able to broadcast our productions in the highest quality formats possible. Most consumer cameras now default to recording in HD, and most viewers are accustomed to consuming video content on larger screens and in high definition. MMCTV has the equipment and software to generate HD content, but this content must be reformatted into an SD format for broadcast. When seen on an average sized flat screen television, the productions often look pixelated and out of focus. This undermines the work done by MMCTV and creates a barrier between the content and the audience which should be removed.

I encourage you to support VAN's and MMCTV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

---

PO Box 697 ♦ 14 Pleasant Street ♦ Richmond, VT 05477  
NOFA 802-434-4122 ♦ VOF 802-434-3821 ♦ Fax 802-434-4154 ♦ [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org)



# BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

802-254-5290~[info@brookslibraryvt.org](mailto:info@brookslibraryvt.org)

October 29, 2015

Christine L. Peterson, Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am writing this letter of support for BCTV in reference to docket 8301, Comcast CPG.

As a library, we are an active producer of library life-long learning programs over the past 10 years. Our volunteer videographer, trained and supplied by equipment by BCTV, is invaluable in video recording and broadcasting our First Wednesday lecture humanities series from October through May of each year. A sample of which you can view at <http://bit.ly/firstwednesdaysBCTV>.

These programs include notable New York Times correspondent David Sanger; world-acclaimed film documentarian Ken Burns; and other scholars from the area's top notch higher educational institutions such as Dartmouth College and Amherst College.

These educational, life-long learning programs would be more widely and effectively viewed if there were enhancements to the BCTV system, such as making them available on the Interactive Program Guide and broadcasting the programs in HD.

As the largest public library in southern Vermont, we are committed to providing life-long learning programs to our community, which includes making our meeting room space and technology --such as videoconferencing--available for free to area organizations for their educational programs. Just last night two libraries including Brooks conducted a Skype interview with Andy Weir, author of "The Martian." The interview was video recorded and will be broadcast later on BCTV.

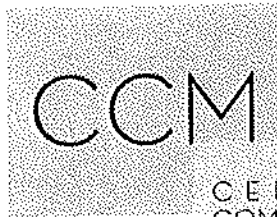
I hope you will seriously consider these upgrades to BCTV's equipment. They have a wonderful, supportive staff, and deserve these enhancements, which will attract even greater views to our life-long learning programs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

Jerry Carbone, Library Director  
Brooks Memorial Library  
224 Main St  
Brattleboro, VT 05301  
802-251-8195

Cc: Cor Trowbridge, Executive Director, BCTV



CENTER for  
COMMUNICATION  
in MEDICINE®  
Division of the Institute of Medical Humanism

160 Benmont Ave. • PO Box 197 • Bennington, VT 05201 • 802.442. 5800 • www.SpeakSooner.org

20 October 2015

To: Vermont Public Service Board  
Re: CAT-TV

I am writing in support of the vital role that CAT-TV provides our community in presenting programming that educates and engages local citizens about relevant topics affecting their lives. Many people in our area rely on this media outlet to keep informed about news, events and activities that can impact their lives.

As Executive Director of a nonprofit whose mission is to educate the public about improving communication with healthcare providers, I can attest to the value of CAT-TV in helping us produce and distribute our programs to Bennington community. The Center for Communication in Medicine is just one of many civic, humanitarian and nonprofit organizations that rely on public access TV to disseminate information that would otherwise not be available.

CAT-TV deserves recognition for its role in meeting local programming needs and should receive support for building infrastructure that can provide our community with the capability of being relevant in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard M. Bandman".

Bernard M. Bandman, PhD  
Executive Director

**Speak Sooner.org**  
a center for communication in medicine initiative



Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
Docket #8301  
112 State St.  
Montpelier, Vt. 05602

Re: Catamount Access Television

Dear Ms. Peterson,

As a resident of the Bennington area, I would like to pass along to you my strong endorsement of the services provided by Catamount Access Television, Inc.

This organization provides local programming that cannot be found in any other media source. Of particular importance is the broadcast of local governmental board meetings. In today's world when our local newspaper has dwindled in size and content, Cat-TV has stepped up to provide detailed and timely access to local news and cultural events.

In addition, the staff of this organization is highly skilled and operates the station efficiently and effectively.

Please add this letter to the many others I hope you have received in support of Cat-TV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Newell", is written over a faint horizontal line.

David J. Newell  
President



# Green Mountain Mahler Festival

P.O. Box 9434, South Burlington, VT 05407 | [www.vtmahler.org](http://www.vtmahler.org)

October 26, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I head a local non-profit organization, the Green Mountain Mahler Festival, dedicated to bringing less commonly performed classical music to the local community. An important part of what we do is embodied in annual concert performances in local venues such as the Elley Long Music Center in Colchester. In this context, we have been working for many years with Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV) to record and broadcast the concert performances in the LCATV distribution area. This is an invaluable service that helps provide a strong link of our community organization to the community. We have also had outstanding interactions with the staff of LCATV and I cannot speak highly enough about them.

As such, I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization LCATV, in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment. I encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Weiss MD PhD  
President, Green Mountain Mahler Festival

To Whom it May Concern,

As the Executive Director of the Southern Vermont Arts Center, I can directly speak to the service that G-NAT provides to our local community and non-profit organizations, governments and schools. Allowing us the opportunity to promote to our local audience all of the events, classes, lectures, and exhibitions we put on is invaluable.

However, improvements can be made--allowing local content to be broadcast in HD would increase the appeal for organizations like myself to advertise and support programming broadcast on local television as the look would match the high quality visuals that we at SVAC strive to provide and know our constituency (mostly of artists and collectors) demands.

Aside from working in Manchester, I also am a local resident and a frequent viewer of G-NAT. In particular, I don't understand why we cannot see what programs are offered in the guide. If this is something that can be addressed through this process, I feel it is an imperative feature to allow easier access to the wonderful programming that G-NAT has been offering. Lastly, I would like to be able to record the programs offered on G-NAT and have found that I am not able to DVR them. I really don't understand why these services (the interactive guide and DVR) are available for other programming but not for our G-NAT programs.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. I think they are essential to be addressed especially knowing how infrequently they are allowed to be.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Weinstein, Esq.

Southern Vermont Arts Center  
Executive Director  
PO Box 617  
Manchester, VT 05254  
(802) 367-1310



October 22, 2015

Susan Hudson, Clerk of the Board  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602-2701

Vermont Access Network  
c/o Cor Trowbridge  
Brattleboro Community TV  
Suite 201  
230 Main St  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Dear Ms. Hudson and Mr. Trowbridge:

I am writing to express my concerns with the Certificate of Public Good renewal (docket #8301) for Comcast and the continuing need of public, educational, and governmental services (PEG) provided through our local access channel Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV).

I appeal to Vermont regulators to ensure that cable providers meet the obligations of providing high-quality service. Over 80% of cable subscribers in Vermont are served by Comcast. Comcast needs to invest in the region by providing high-definition programming, cable guide updates, and faster internet speed as it is in the best interest of the public. The bottom line is that PEG channels need to be on equal footing with basic commercial channels.

As the Public Service Board, you must keep public television appealing to local audiences. Community members rely on public access TV. Through public access television, citizens are informed and can participate in local issues, promoting civic engagement and openness in local government. Services provided by BCTV are essential to the region and the town for dissemination of information.

Whatever efforts the Department of Public Service can provide to Vermont residents to ensure cable operators provide service upgrades for local access channels will be much appreciated. The Department needs to redefine regulations and set higher standards for public access television in order to protect its future. Thank you for taking these thoughts and ideas into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Lenker, Interim Town Administrator  
Town of Guilford, Vermont

## Peter Guihan

Individualized Studies Coordinator  
Peoples Academy High School  
Morrisville VT 05661  
802 888 4600 (Learning Center)  
[peter.guihan@lssuvt.org](mailto:peter.guihan@lssuvt.org)

10/20/15

Vermont Public Service Board  
Attention: Christine Peterson  
[Christine.peterson@vermont.gov](mailto:Christine.peterson@vermont.gov)

Dear Christine Peterson,

I am a resident of Morrisville and during the school year I work for Peoples Academy High School as an Individualized Studies Coordinator. Over the years GMATV has filmed several of our school arts projects and informational meetings and made them available to our local population who were unable to attend these presentations in person. Students and teachers from Peoples Academy have received camera and editing training from the knowledgeable staff at GMATV. The most recent event they covered for us was a Distracted Driving presentation delivered by Andy Pilgrim, a professional race car driver who promotes driver safety when he is not driving for Cadillac.

I also provide "live audio" for events around Lamoille County. One such event is a Wednesday evening concert series that runs for ten weeks in the summer. GMATV is there to film the festivities. If you miss a show you can check it out on channel 15. Their camera crew is discrete, polite and professional.

GMATV also shoots Select Board meetings and our annual Town Meeting. I would have to say that GMATV is a valuable asset to our community.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Guihan



196 Main Street  
P. O. Box 679  
Windsor, VT 05089  
(802) 674-5781 tel.  
(802) 674-2524 fax  
[www.americaprecision.org](http://www.americaprecision.org)  
[info@americaprecision.org](mailto:info@americaprecision.org)

October 13, 2015

Christine L. Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson,

*Board of Trustees*

Eric Gilbertson, Chair  
Montpelier VT  
Bill Lynn, Secretary - Treasurer  
West Lebanon NH

Gene Cesari  
South Ryegate VT  
Stephen Christy  
Lebanon NH  
Blaine Cliver  
Brandon VT  
Steve Dalessio  
Walpole NH  
John Dumville  
South Royalton VT  
Christopher Gray  
Springfield VT  
Daryl Hagopian  
East Longmeadow MA  
Ben Holleran  
Chester VT  
Sean Kersey  
Lebanon NH  
Malcolm Mason  
McLean VA  
Lee Morris  
Windsor CT  
E. Hubbard Yonkers  
Contoocook NH

I am writing in support of our local public access TV station Windsor on Air. This small station, and the others like it, are incredibly important to our democratic process and quality of life in our state. The work of the station is of consistent high quality and they do a great job managing scarce resources to best advantage. The stations work collaboratively and share programming.

In this age of diminishing TV subscribership and consequent revenue, it is still essential to maintain these stations, and to find other revenue sources to help support them. Our smaller stations do not have the capacity to do significant fundraising like seeking donations and grants.

I hope the DPS can assist in leveling the playing field in support of all our public access stations, particularly the smaller ones. We live in a world increasingly driven by telecommunication behemoths like Comcast. Our stations need to have access to high def channels on the Comcast network, and to publish and promote their program schedules there.

Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,

Ann Lawless  
Executive Director

*Executive Director*  
Ann Lawless

*Founding Director*  
Edwin Battison  
1915-2009



October 15, 2015

Christine Peterson, CAPI Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service 112 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson,

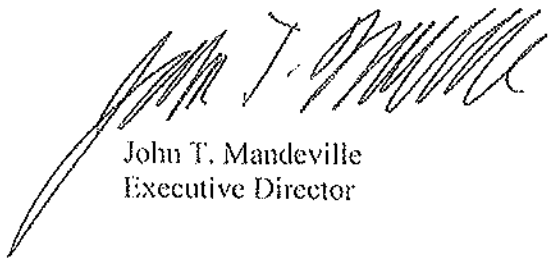
I am writing a letter of support for the work done by GMATV based in Hyde Park, VT.

I believe that the work that they do is crucial to providing necessary public communication opportunities as well as locally produced news, education and entertainment. I have found their staff to be competent and very easy to work with.

The LEDC sponsors eight to twelve training events at Green Mountain Tech each year and for the last couple of years GMATV has taped these for re-broadcast and has made them available to other public access stations around the state. They have also given us CDs of these events which we have uploaded to our own You Tube channel.

The continued support of GMATV by Comcast and by the Department of Public Service will be appreciated not only by the LEDC but by the whole community.

Sincerely,



John T. Mandeville  
Executive Director

October 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Comcast and our local public access station—Green Mountain Access Television. I have been involved with GMATV (and by association, Comcast) in two capacities for the past several years.

First, I am a teacher at Lamoille Union High School where the studio is located, and an adjunct professor at Johnson State College, which benefits from the filming capabilities that GMATV provides. As a teacher at LUHS, I specialize in Media Literacy and my classes film their own television programs every year as part of our hands-on look at the television industry. I have had students create their own sports talk shows, as well as news broadcasts. The experience is invaluable and the staff and management of the studio is very professional and supportive as they train and facilitate the students in their various programming from scriptwriting to managing equipment.

As an adjunct at JSC, I have attended many live shows at the Dibden Performing Arts Center and GMATV is always there with an on-site crew to bring the work of JSC students and faculty to a larger audience. In that respect, GMATV is a valued and respected community member.

Secondly, I have served on the board of the television station for several years and have watched it grow and prosper under the guidance of Tim Torrey, station manager, and the generous contributions of Comcast. It is a model of efficiency and good management, drawing quality employees from tech classes at JSC and the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, as well as experienced professionals from the field at large.

There is no question in my mind that public access television is a valuable resource for our community and Comcast is more than fulfilling its responsibilities in making it possible, especially considering that satellite providers are not held to the same regulations.

Thank you for your continued support of GMATV and by extension, Comcast.

Sincerely,

Doug Boardman

Lamoille Union High School



ST. ALBANS

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
05620-2601

142 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2

ST. ALBANS, VERMONT 05478-1860

T 802-524-6541 F 802-524-5216

2015 NOV 12 A 9:14 [www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu)

November 9, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Northwest Access Television (NWATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. NWATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

At the Community College of Vermont's St. Albans campus, Channel 15 has been integral in keeping an active presence in the community, as well as educating the county in what we have to offer. We have gone to the station to record interviews and promos. We have also borrowed the cameras to record skits that advertise some of our more special courses and activities. Our relationship with Channel 15 is amazing and we are constantly pleased with how happy Channel 15 is to help us. And it has been a ton of fun!

I encourage you to support VAN's and NWATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen DeHart".

Gretchen DeHart  
Coordinator of Academic Services  
Community College of Vermont—St. Albans  
802-527-5512  
[gretchen.dehart@ccv.edu](mailto:gretchen.dehart@ccv.edu)

TO: [psb.clerk@vermont.gov](mailto:psb.clerk@vermont.gov)

[Christine.peterson@vermont.gov](mailto:Christine.peterson@vermont.gov)

RE: Docket 8301

DATE: October 29, 2015

Dear PSB,

As a former business owner in Burlington, I feel that Comcast's main focus while doing business here in Vermont should be to provide good service at a reasonable price. If Comcast is to continue to be a major player in Vermont, healthy competition will be the only sure way of reining Comcast in.

As background, I have been a Comcast customer for a number of years. As such, a prominent issue for me is that my package of services has continued to increase at a rate that exceeds the cost-of-living. For this reason I am concerned that Burlington Telecom (BT) remain a viable and resilient competitor. In fact I hope that BT will expand beyond Burlington to my community in Chittenden County, and to even to communities beyond. If Comcast is allowed to dominate the industry and BT is no longer a rising player I feel it is an inevitable reality that Comcast's rates will rise at an even faster rate. Competition brings out lower subscriber costs and better services. My sense is that the regulators are holding utilities (such as electricity and water) to a higher standard than they do for communications. In today's world communications has become a basic need.

In terms of service, here are a couple examples of why in the past I have not been particularly satisfied with Comcast. My first discontent was about not being able to fast-forward through commercials for shows I have downloaded, despite the fact that I am paying for Premium Service. My second discontent was not being able to omit distracting subtitles that significantly impaired visibility on my TV screen. I have since rectified both problems but

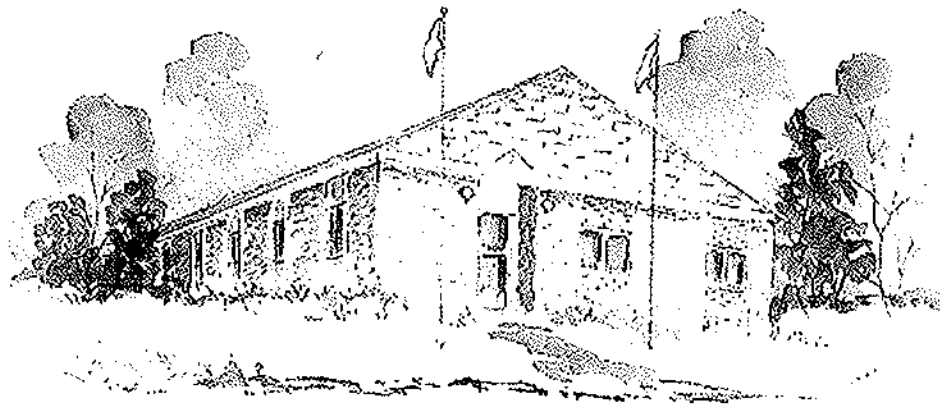
it took a very lengthy call to Comcast to accomplish this. Their tech rep was friendly and knowledgeable. Nonetheless Comcast should present clearer on-screen instructions for customers to "opt out" on new features. Or perhaps periodic notifications as to how to "opt out" on new features would work.

My last point is that I hope that PSB will stipulate that Comcast increase its support of the public access channels. For example it should *expand* its commitment to local access channels who hope to have statewide HD/Ultra-HD cable channel for live events as well as the ability for viewers to easily search for, and record, local-access programs using Comcast's existing interactive program guide. Further, support of our local access channels should be considered part of Comcast's operating overhead and not appear as an itemized expense on each of their customer's bills. If it must be an itemized expense, the PSB should define how Comcast calculates their number to assure it is not deceptively inflated.

Thank you for your oversight of Comcast.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Allegrezza





VERMONT  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
05620-2601

2015 OCT 29 A 9 45

October 28, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT, 05620-2601

re: Docket 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing in support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN), and specifically of member Access Management Organization Lake Champlain Access Television (LCATV), in the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast. LCATV and organizations like it across Vermont offer community members the opportunity to utilize the vital tool of cable television to provide a local means of expression, education, discourse, and entertainment.

LCATV was instrumental in obtaining a complimentary high speed Internet access for the Georgia Public Library. Having free quality Internet access available at the library levels the playing field for our residents.

Several patrons recently have been using the library public access stations to search for employment. One patron visited the library everyday, while he was job hunting, and credits the library with its free Internet access and computers for his success in obtaining a good job.

LCATV has generously offered several video production camps for our younger patrons. These patrons gained hands on knowledge of all aspects of creating a video to be aired on public access television. Having these opportunities available in our community are invaluable. Young people are gaining knowledge and experience while having fun, and quite possibly helping them to determine career aspirations.

Another wonderful aspect of LCATV's involvement in our library and community is making Georgia's Historical Society's programs held at the library available on public access television. Additionally, providing a DVD of these programs for the library's collection. This DVD preserves our community's historical information as well as providing interesting and quality viewing.

I encourage you to support VAN's and LCATV's efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies



to better serve Vermont communities and to remain vibrant and essential local media outlets for years to come.

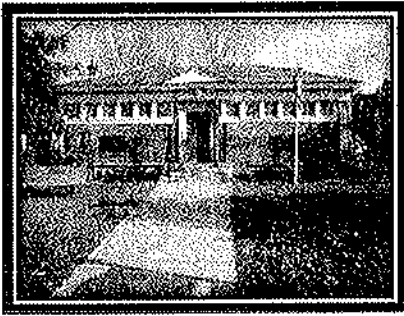
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Webster". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sue Webster  
Georgia Public Library  
1697 Ethan Allen Highway Georgia  
Fairfax, VT 05454

802-524-4643





Lanpher Memorial Library  
P.O. Box 196  
141 Main Street  
Hyde Park, VT 05655  
802-888-4628

hydeparklibrary@yahoo.com  
lanpherlibrary.org

October 16, 2015

Dear Christine Peterson at the Department of Public Good,

I am writing in support of Green Mountain Access Television (GMATV) as they look forward to renewing their Certificate of Public Good.

I am the Library Director of the Lanpher Memorial Library in Hyde Park, VT. We have relied on GMATV staff to come to our events and film them to air to a wider audience. Many important programs have been aired this way, including a Copley Health Talk with the Hospital Pharmacist as she gave important information about the meaning of "nutrition" in nutritional supplements; a program about the Universal Recycling Law from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District; and recently, a program where long time Hyde Park residents shared stories of yesteryear, giving us a glimpse into the past of our town.

Having these programs filmed is of great benefit to the Library and to the community we serve. Many people are unable to attend a program at the Library for one reason or another, and are able to watch the program on GMATV later. Even people who did attend programs are grateful for the opportunity to be able to reference it again on GMATV. Of particular importance is the recording of the stories of yesteryear. Many of the older people who shared stories have great information to share of our past will not be around forever, and being able to capture it on film is valuable to future generations.

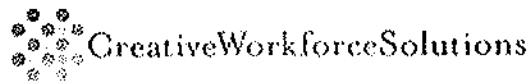
We are grateful to partner with GMATV and for their professional staff who have a willingness to come to the Lanpher Memorial Library, no matter how big or small the program, and film it for the community.

Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions, or if you are in need of further information.

Sincerely,

Amy Olsen  
Library Director  
Lanpher Memorial Library





63 Professional Dr., Morrisville, VT 05661.

Christine Peterson, CAPI Division,  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street  
Montpelier VT 05602

Ms. Peterson:

Please accept this letter in support of Green Mountain Access Television (GMATV). I have had the opportunity to partner with Tim Torrey, General Manager and Amy Murphy, Station Manager during the past three years on several occasions and have found their staff to be very helpful, supportive, creative and professional in the way they do their jobs!

As a governmental employment service, Creative Workforce Solutions has worked with GMATV to develop and produce programming to be aired on GMTAV to provide information about CWS, its programs and services to the Lamoille valley business community. Tim and Amy assisted me to brainstorm ideas, narrow them down, identify topics, presenters and record a program in GMATV's studio. In addition, they made copies available to me so I could distribute them to area businesses as opportunities became available.

One large project CWS undertakes each year is the Lamoille Valley Career & Job Fair, held annually each September at GMTCC. For the past two years, 2014 and 15, GMATV staff participated throughout the day interviewing business people, CWS staff and volunteers, recording the day's events, highlights and takeaways with the goal of producing a short program which illustrates the purpose and value of the job fair to the community. They have gone about this work in a helpful, professional manner complementing Career & Job Fair activities, adding value to everyone's experience.

In summary, thank you for your consideration of my experiences partnering with GMATV as you work through your process of renewing their Certificate of Public Good.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like additional information. I can be reached via telephone or e-mail per my contact information listed below.

DJ Masi

Business Account Manager

Creative Workforce Solutions

Lamoille Region

[dj.masi@vermont.gov](mailto:dj.masi@vermont.gov)

793-8309



Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional, SHRM-CP

An Initiative of the Vermont Agency of Human Services

[www.cwsvt.com](http://www.cwsvt.com)



Rep. Maureen P. Dakin  
60 Woodlins Circle, Unit 4  
Colchester, VT 05446

October 31, 2015

Christine Peterson  
Coordinator of Consumer Affairs and Information  
Vermont Public Service Department  
112 State Street, Third Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Re: Docket 8301

Ms. Peterson,

I encourage you to support VAN's and Lake Champlain Access TV's (LCATV) efforts to gain access to new and existing technologies to better serve Vermont communities. In this fast pace of technological advances it is imperative that they be enabled to fulfill their mission to the public and keep abreast with what is available to others in the industry.

As an elected official I'm unable to attend all the town government meetings I should and would like to attend. I'm able to watch them as I have time thanks to LCATV. So much more informative than reading meeting minutes or talking with someone. I surprise myself with how often I tune in to hear what's going on in neighboring communities! Out of curiosity I turned on LCATV as I started to write this letter. Currently, the Milton Development Review Board meeting is airing.

As a candidate going door-to-door campaigning I've been impressed by the number of people who have seen me participate in LCATV candidate forums over the years as well as when I've been speaking at various meetings and town events.

As a private citizen I watch concerts, school events and library programs. I can only imagine how much a person who is homebound appreciates the connection to the community he/she lives in that LCATV brings to that person.

These are personal experiences. They are important enough that I'm writing this letter in the hope that during the upcoming Certificate of Public Good renewal process for Comcast the needs of the public access television networks for access to new and existing technologies are recognized and addressed.

Respectfully,

Maureen P. Dakin

State Representative, Colchester (Dist. 9-2 Chitt.)



October 31, 2015

Ms. Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: Docket 8301 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Good of Comcast of Connecticut/Georgia/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/New York/North Carolina/Virginia/Vermont, LLC, d/b/a Comcast, expiring on December 29, 2016, to provide cable television service

Dear Ms. Hudson:

I am writing on behalf of the Windham Regional Commission to offer comments on the Certificate of Public Good of Comcast, and specifically the provision of public, educational and government (PEG) access television channels. Among the 27 towns of the Windham Regional Commission are the towns of Athens, Brattleboro, Brookline, Dummerston, Grafton, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica, Londonderry, Marlboro, Rockingham, Searsburg, Stratton, Vernon, Wardsboro, Westminster, Weston, Windham, and Winhall included in the Board's order dated July 30, 2014.

We recognize the importance of access to cable television to the residents and businesses of the Windham Region by Comcast and other providers not only for entertainment purposes, but increasingly for information about local government decision-making and education. Apart from our PEG channels, we ostensibly have no local television coverage with the exception of occasional major stories that may be picked up by the Burlington area-based television stations. Vermont Public Radio provides more frequent reporting about events in our region but it is also occasional and topical. As the local daily newspaper, The Reformer, struggles to retain its personnel and its ability to cover local news, our local PEG channels including Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) and Falls Area Community Television (FACT TV) assume increasing importance as they provide broadcasts of meetings of town selectboards, planning commissions, and other town functions.

PEG channels also broadcast meetings and hearings of state agencies and boards; myriad workshops, trainings, presentations and seminars provided by a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organizations; tapings of local cultural events; and unique home-

grown programming. The Windham Regional Commission has also begun to solicit the services of BCTV to record and broadcast its meetings and events, thereby providing much broader access to the public of our activities. We will increase our use of our region's PEG services to capture and broadcast our events and trainings for towns, town officials and the general public. This also enables us to archive the recordings and make them available for viewing on an on-demand basis on our own website. The programming provided by PEGs is an essential service that is only growing in importance. It should be further enhanced.

As is stated in the Windham Regional Plan adopted September 30, 2014, it is the policy of the Windham Regional Commission to:

- Support greater penetration of public access, educational and government programming (PEG) through new PEG group formation and regional agreements. Encourage cable companies and other video programming service providers to support PEG operating and capital budgets. Encourage cable television companies to provide coverage of regular town meetings and other important local events as part of their cable franchise agreements.
- Support increased access to information about local events in user-friendly electronic formats.
- Encourage increased access for residents to state and local public meetings and hearings through Vermont Interactive Television, PEG channels, and other electronic means.

In support of these policies, we urge the Board to require the following as conditions of a renewed Certificate of Public Good.

- Require continued and more robust support of PEG operations and programming.
- List PEG programs individually on interactive program guides. This is the menu for all services on cable so they can be searched and recorded like every other channel.
- Provide local PEG stations with high-definition channels and the financial support to make this possible. High-definition is the new standard for video quality. Unlike other channels, PEG channels are only offered in standard definition even though their programming is created in high-definition.
- Improved capacity for high-quality live programming by the PEG channels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the renewal of the Comcast certificate of public good. Access to cable television is important. PEG programming is increasingly essential to public engagement in local, regional and state governance, civic education, and our region's social fabric.

Sincerely,  
Chris Company  
Executive Director

From: Meredith Holch  
40 East Church Street/PO Box 12  
East Hardwick, VT 05836

To: Vermont Department of Public Service

Date: October 21, 2015

To the Vermont Department of Public Service,

Due to scheduling conflicts, I am unable to attend the public hearing in Johnson, VT, on October 21, 2015. I am writing to say that Hardwick Community Television, is an incredible asset to the Hardwick area. As a resident, I was a founding member. I was there from the beginning, when interested townspeople got together to discuss the possibilities of a TV station in Hardwick. It took us a few years of long meetings, discussions, and logistic-solving, but we stuck to it out of sheer desire to bring public access TV to Hardwick.

I served on the board for a couple of years, and later served as Director from 2007 to 2012. During those years, the budget was under \$30,000. In addition to me, there was only one other paid staff person. We each worked 12-14 hours a week. We were able to be highly productive due to an active board, and volunteer help.

The original broadcast computer was very basic. Operating on such a small budget, HCTV was unable to update to the digital world that the bigger budgets of larger stations allowed them to enter.

Spike funding was what enabled HCTV to update their broadcast computer. With the old equipment, I had to load each program by DVD, a time consuming process. With the new equipment, programs can be input as computer files, which is highly efficient. With

the old equipment, getting the weekly schedules onto the website so the community would know when programs were on, took a lot of tedious work. The new broadcast computer transfers the schedule to the website automatically.

I left HCTV around the time of the switchover. However, as a community member, I see that the staff hours saved by the new broadcast computer are being put to good use to serve the community. I see more programming is online. I see staff shooting videos of more local events. I see there are more volunteers because staff has more time to give them the help and time they need. And volunteers now stick around longer, and finish more programs.

HCTV has a solid history of procuring outside funding. They have received grants, and they continually grow their successful underwriter program. They have also raised money through fundraisers. But ultimately, spike funding from Comcast was the only way to effectively fund the purchase of the new broadcast computer.

Public access television is very strong in Vermont. This is partly because small stations like Hardwick manage to make local TV vital on a small budget. It's a two way street. HCTV supports the community, and the community supports HCTV. Spike funding is sometimes necessary to allow citizens of small towns to get the benefits of more urban areas. As a community member who has been very active with Hardwick Community Television, I offer nothing but support of everything that will help it to continue to be a lively part of Hardwick life.

Sincerely,

Meredith Holch

10/26/15  
Chris Webster  
Creative Director, Select Design  
Statement of Support for VCAM

My daughter Haddie Webster started making films when she was 12 years old, using just our point and shoot home digital camera. The movie was called The Crystal Story, and although the video quality was poor, and the footage shaky and roughly spliced together in iMovie, the process sparked a creative passion in Haddie. The following summer, she gathered her friends together and cast them in a full length update to The Wizard of Oz. This time instead of using our digital camera, she used our family camcorder. She designed the costumes, wrote the script, directed the scenes and filled the role of The Wicked Witch. Again, she spliced it together in iMovie. The piece was highly creative and well conceived – but she had reached the limits of the technology at hand. The sound quality was poor, the lighting inconsistent – the resolution of the film was not great. Additionally, she came to realize that iMovie was not intended for projects of this complexity – the number of video and audio clips overwhelmed the application and she faced numerous technical roadblocks including audio corruption, application failures, and issues exporting the final piece (which was happening literally right before the movie premier was set to screen).

Fortunately for me, I work right next door to VCAM, so I decided to stop in to ask their Executive Director, Seth Mobley, his advice for pulling off the movie premier. I knew a little bit about VCAM, that they were a community access media resource, but wasn't sure of the extent of their offerings. When Seth heard about what Haddie was working on, he informed me about what VCAM offers and it was immediately to the next level.

After hearing about VCAM's mission and resources, I had Haddie, who was then 14, sign up as a member. She took part in several free training sessions to learn more about the equipment and resources available through VCAM. Specifically, she looked at high definition digital camera options, microphones and boom poles, along with lighting equipment that she could use for free. VCAM was also able to offer advice on video production software – recommending Final Cut Pro and tools to teach herself this program.

So, in short – VCAM was the perfect solution to all Haddie's needs. All the technical issues and limitations she encountered while making her first few movies were removed. The video quality limitations of our home video equipment, the sound quality issues she had using the microphones available to us, the production limitations with iMovie. These were all suddenly things of the past. We would have never been able to buy the kind of equipment needed because of its significant cost nor would we have had the ongoing technical assistance and support she needed not to get discouraged and give up.

She began right away on her next movie concept, this time utilizing high definition cameras, microphones, boom mics and cables that she was able to check out from VCAM's equipment room. Having taken part in the training sessions given by the staff at VCAM, she had the knowledge and groundwork in place to see her creative vision to truly come to life.

Her next movie, *The Five* – her third feature length film, saw a leap forward technically. The scenes she shot came through in clear high definition, the sound, utilizing the boom mic equipment, was immensely clearer. There was a learning curve with Final Cut Pro but with the help of VCAM's technical staff, all questions were answered and she was able to put together an exceptional final movie that had a public premier at a local venue and also aired on VCAM's public access channel.

The success of this third movie provided more fuel for her creative passion. VCAM provided the critical missing piece to enable her to truly pursue her creative vision. The trajectory continued with her next feature length movie, completed in 2014 when she was 16 – *The Days*. She went on to win the Best Filmmaker Award 18 and Under for *The Days* at the Brattleboro Film Festival, which included a cash prize and festival night screening and recognition.

In addition to the huge role VCAM played in providing free access to state of the art equipment, the level of support cannot be overstated. Haddie completed the first edit of her last full length film, *Goodbye Ophelia*, which took a significant amount of her very limited time. Disaster struck when she had an application glitch and thought she had lost the edited footage that she had worked on and would have to go through all the raw footage again re-do the movie cut. This was a huge setback for her. As a last ditch effort, we brought her hard-drive in to VCAM and the staff was able to recover the lost footage.

Haddie, now 17, is in the process of applying to film school – she currently has an application in for early decision at New York University's Tisch School and was able to produce polished portfolio shorts on her own using VCAM's equipment and the experience she has gained through working with VCAM's resources and staff. In addition to Tisch, she also plans to apply to a handful of other high profile film schools.

If it weren't for VCAM, my daughter may not have pursued filmmaking beyond those first few home movies. The limits of the resources available would have surely dissuaded her from continuing with the interest. VCAM was truly the critical missing piece, giving her practical skills, amazing resources, support, confidence and recognition - enabling her to pursue her burgeoning passion and continue down the path towards what will undoubtedly be a lifelong interest and career path.



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Andrew Crawford <andrew@technil.info>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2015 9:46 PM  
**To:** Andrew Crawford; director@northwestaccess.tv; PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Lauren-Glenn Davitian; seth@vermontcam.org; scottc@retn.org  
**Subject:** Docket 8301

### Comments on Docket 8301

Andrew B. Crawford  
58 Lori Ln.  
Burlington VT, 05408  
[802-324-1915](tel:802-324-1915)

Greetings PSB members.

The commitments made under the conclusion of docket 8301 will be in effect until 2027, approximately twelve years from 2015. In the twelve years between the Cable Communications Policy act of 1984 and 1996, The Internet and World Wide Web as we know them came into public use. In the Twelve years between 1996 and 2008, The Internet has gone from being a technological infrastructure that a tiny minority of people use to communicate, to being the primary and default infrastructure people use to communicate and conduct business. By 2027, the changes in how media is consumed and delivered, and the changes in how we communicate and share data will make the systems used today in 2015 look as antiquated as a dial-up modem. As the franchising authority in the state of Vermont, it is your duty to secure access to the commercial features of Comcast networks for the public good in exchange for the use of Vermont public rights of way in our communities. Over the next 12 years, the evolution in communications technology will continue to redefine how we work, play, and interact as a civilization. Failure to put meaningful and effective conditions on the Comcast CPG renewal will undermine the quality of broadband access across the state, will stifle innovation in our communities, and may lead to the end of PEG Access altogether.

When the Cable Communications Policy act of 1984 took effect, the TCP/IP v4 protocol standard used for traffic between networked computers had only been in use on the ARPANET for about a year. The Internet as we know it today did not exist, and it would be two more years until ARPANET and NSFNET were joined, and 6 years before Tim Berners Lee would propose HTML, HTTP, and URLs, as a way construct, transfer, and link between documents over a network as part of a "World Wide Web". Only in 1991 did the NSF begin allowing commercial use of the Internet. The first web browsers appeared in 1993 and 1994, and it wouldn't be easy for the general public to access a dial-up connection to the Internet until AOL or Compuserve were founded in 1995. Amazon, Craigslist, and eBay were also founded in 1995. By 1997 there were over one million websites. Google was founded in 1998. PayPal in 1999. Wikipedia in 2001. Facebook in 2004. YouTube in 2005. Ustream, Twitter, and Amazon Web Services in 2006. Netflix, Hulu, Livestream in 2007. By 2014 there were over 1 Billion publicly facing websites. The above timeline notes just a few of the dramatic changes in the networks and the services that run on top of them. The pace of technological change is not slowing, in fact, it is accelerating. I urge the PSB to consider that this will be the only opportunity to shape the conditions placed upon Comcast for the next ~12 years.

The Internet continues to be a network of networks. The changes in ownership of those discrete networks, the changes in the topology of those networks, and the agreements network operators make about the interconnections between networks have significant implications for public access to those networks, economical and efficient access to information or data, the freedom for information or data to flow between two clients on those networks, and the ability of individuals to innovate on the networks within their communities. I am convinced that Comcast's Hybrid Fiber-optic Coaxial (HFC) cable network, while currently valuable to individuals and business in our state, will not provide the future capacity needed by our communities over the long term, and will show its age well before the close of the next CPG. In addition, Comcast's public stance against Net Neutrality provisions and classification of its operations under Title II by the FCC, would allow Comcast the ability to arbitrarily deny or slow access to resources on its network and on networks it interconnects with. In Vermont, Comcast currently provides no significant public access to the Commercial features of its network, and currently limits that access to, at most, three Standard Definition (SD) television channels in each served municipality, and the lowest bandwidth business class internet access at AMO facilities. Comcast's network does not noticeably peer or interconnect with other locally owned or operated networks, causing packets on it's network to travel to Boston MA at an absolute minimum before egress from their network and routing back to other VT broadband networks. In some cases, we have witnessed egress of packets sent from Vermont in Atlanta GA, on the way back to a network connection on local Vermont networks that may only be physically 20 feet away. That practice is not only inefficient, but reflects the mentality of a monopoly network operator. Operating their network in such a closed fashion prevents many types of experimentation that fosters forward looking technological entrepreneurship both in Vermont and across the country.

The Hybrid Fiber Coaxial-cable network is an outdated OSI Physical Layer technology that no one would choose to install if they were deploying broadband services today. Understandably, Comcast has cobbled this network together from Adelphia and other owners before it. There is no indication or clear commitment on their part for any significant investments in Fiber To The Home (FTTH) that would provide those users in Vermont another 20 years of broadband evolution. Comcast operates the largest last mile broadband network in the state of Vermont. To cut these customers out of another 20 years of broadband evolution seems like poor dedication to the local communities they serve and reflects the fact that enterprises like Comcast have more lucrative locations in the country to spend their capital on network improvements and fiber buildout.

In 1984, Public, Educational, and Government Access Management Organizations (AMO)s had the rights to use three analog radio frequency "channels" to transmit Television signals over the coaxial cable infrastructure of the cable system, each one taking up ~6MHz of radio-frequency spectrum. On a completely full Analog cable system of the time ~158 channels, these 3 channels represented a minimum of ~1.898% of the usable spectrum on the Coaxial Cable.

In Vermont, Comcast currently uses a minimum of 750MHz of radio-frequency spectrum at their head ends, which, in an analog cable system, represents the collective bandwidth of ~125 channels. In that scenario, the AMO's collectively, with three non-overlapping channels in each locality, would have had access to ~3.2% of the potential maximum bandwidth over the network in each locality, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The transition to fully digital transmission mechanisms for video content, digital compression of the video signal with codecs, as well as successive improvements in the efficiency of DOCSIS running over the HFC cable network, have vastly increased the utilization of the radio-frequency bandwidth on the physical cable system. As these investments have been made on the part of Comcast and previous franchises, the amount of data that these networks are capable of carrying has increased dramatically. As a direct result of the same efficiency improvements, the actual amount of bandwidth,

and the percent of the usable spectrum on the Comcast network that AMO's have access to is continuously declining. The amount of relative bandwidth available for public use on these networks is now at its lowest point since 1984. The current Comcast "xfinity" network service in Vermont is allegedly running over DOCSIS 3.1 on their Hybrid Fiber Coaxial cable plant, and represents the final stage of evolution for that HFC infrastructure. Without any plans to deploy Fiber To The Home (FTTH) in Vermont, and with DOCSIS 3.1, the ability to squeeze any more bandwidth out of the coaxial last mile doesn't currently physically exist without expensive physical plant improvements. For Vermont, this means that if Comcast doesn't serve you, it is not likely that it will serve you in the future, and secondarily, that if it does serve you, it won't be at any broadband speeds faster than what is available today with a fully compatible DOCSIS 3.1 modem. In addition, the actual capacity available is subject to many other factors, all of which reduce the actual measured capacity available to the end user. While DOCSIS 3.1 promises multiple Gigabit rates of connectivity (~10 or less) over the coming decade, other broadband fiber-optic network providers can already light pairs or groups of fibers at 10, 40, or even 100Gbit/s.

Hand in hand with the transition to successive versions of DOCSIS and much more efficient use of the spectrum, there has been a move by Comcast to use the additional capacity created by these efforts at the OSI Physical Layer for use in subscription paid voice services, subscription Digital and/or HD video data services, home security and automation, and subscription access to the Internet. AMO's do not have significant access to any of these commercial features of their network, not to mention the second class citizen treatment they receive on the video networks themselves.

*Historically, prior to the mergers, acquisitions and extensions that result in the current Comcast network, the bandwidth allocations of PEG on analog cable systems in different localities and the percentage dedicated to Access could vary widely. They likely to continue to do so, based upon the head end configurations of Comcast.*

If we were to assume a minimum 750MHz of radiofrequency spectrum used in a modern DOCSIS 3.1 deployment and if we were also to assume three 8MBit/s MPEG2-Transport Streams, the actual bandwidth consumed over the Comcast network when watching one channel on a last mile coaxial DOCSIS 3.1 connection\* would represent just 0.14% of the ~5.6Gbit/s capable with that bandwidth. All three channels together would represent 0.42% of that same theoretical maximum ~5.6Gbit/s. In reality, downstream channels would not be bonded across the entire spectrum, but in comparing to the analog downstream only system, I judged that would illustrate the reduction in theoretical available bandwidth.

*\*(50kHz 4k (4096) 20 microsecond, 7.5989bps/Hz subcarriers bonded over the full 750 MHz)*

Not only has the percentage of bandwidth available to AMO's decreased from ~3.2% to ~0.42%, but that bandwidth has also changed in the sense that on an analog cable system, the TV channel bandwidth was dedicated for public use 24-7. In the digital system of DOCSIS, AMO's are not dedicated any bandwidth at all, but given only a tiny percentage of the bandwidth, (just enough to deliver the video signal) when someone is actually watching an AMO channel at their home.

Comcast, with their xfinity re-branding is easing consumers into the idea of an xfinity "network package", which, includes access to the Internet as well as their own network services. Since they have begun piloting the viability of Over The Top (OTT) delivery of high value video entertainment content earlier this year, the future of a dedicated separate television service comes into question. While we cannot know the future, I would be very surprised if Comcast or their xfinity branded network service was still operating video delivery primarily on a dedicated and logically separate video network overlay in 2027. Since Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) AMO's are funded

from the revenue of that logically separate "Television Subscription" video network, and also use that discrete television service to deliver their content, it follows that the end of that discrete service also means the end of provisions for public access programming on their network. I believe that this bears repeating. Since PEG AMOs in Vermont have been systematically excluded from the vast majority of the Comcast network commercial features, it stands to reason that AMOs would also be excluded from any OTT services offered in the future. As the older discrete IP Video delivery networks are phased out in favor of OTT delivery consumers demand, so will Access be phased out in its entirety. With the demonstrated pace of technological change, it stands to reason that this CPG will be the last CPG before significant changes in the way content is consumed and delivered are made manifest in Comcast's business model.

I have significant concerns that Comcast is not taking their responsibilities to Public Access and the customers it serves across Vermont seriously. I assert that they are not investing in their networks across Vermont to move beyond their antiquated coaxial last mile. I assert that they are not routing locally or peering, and that they are opposed to Net Neutrality provisions. In addition, they have not provided access for AMO's to the newer commercial features of the Comcast network. The share of public access to the bandwidth on the network has been systematically reduced over time, and the manner in which they operate their network prevents using it to drive the type of entrepreneurial endeavors that will serve Vermont tech sector economic development into the future.

While it is clear that the PSB intends to issue a CPG for Comcast, our communities deserve the commitment to a better broadband future, one that supports our hyperlocal community media AMO's and gives them the bandwidth and access to the commercial features of the Comcast network as was originally intended by law, in exchange for the use of public rights of way. With the rapid pace of technological change, we cannot afford to rubber stamp a CPG for Comcast without realizing the consequences will likely be significant and negative for our Vermont communities and the AMO community media organizations that serve them.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crawford

Under the interests of full disclosure, I am an employee of Chittenden Community Television, but all views, assertions, and claims in the letter above are my own and do not necessarily represent the views my employer or my employer in any capacity it may have as a party to this docket.

Thank you for your time.



October 31, 2015

Ms. Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: Docket 8301 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Good of Comcast of Connecticut/Georgia/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/New York/North Carolina/Virginia/Vermont, LLC, d/b/a Comcast, expiring on December 29, 2016, to provide cable television service

Dear Ms. Hudson:

I am writing on behalf of the Windham Regional Commission to offer comments on the Certificate of Public Good of Comcast, and specifically the provision of public, educational and government (PEG) access television channels. Among the 27 towns of the Windham Regional Commission are the towns of Athens, Brattleboro, Brookline, Dummerston, Grafton, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica, Londonderry, Marlboro, Rockingham, Searsburg, Stratton, Vernon, Wardsboro, Westminster, Weston, Windham, and Winhall included in the Board's order dated July 30, 2014.

We recognize the importance of access to cable television to the residents and businesses of the Windham Region by Comcast and other providers not only for entertainment purposes, but increasingly for information about local government decision-making and education. Apart from our PEG channels, we ostensibly have no local television coverage with the exception of occasional major stories that may be picked up by the Burlington area-based television stations. Vermont Public Radio provides more frequent reporting about events in our region but it is also occasional and topical. As the local daily newspaper, *The Reformer*, struggles to retain its personnel and its ability to cover local news, our local PEG channels including Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) and Falls Area Community Television (FACT TV) assume increasing importance as they provide broadcasts of meetings of town selectboards, planning commissions, and other town functions.

PEG channels also broadcast meetings and hearings of state agencies and boards; myriad workshops, trainings, presentations and seminars provided by a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organizations; tapings of local cultural events; and unique home-

grown programming. The Windham Regional Commission has also begun to solicit the services of BCTV to record and broadcast its meetings and events, thereby providing much broader access to the public of our activities. We will increase our use of our region's PEG services to capture and broadcast our events and trainings for towns, town officials and the general public. This also enables us to archive the recordings and make them available for viewing on an on-demand basis on our own website. The programming provided by PEGs is an essential service that is only growing in importance. It should be further enhanced.

As is stated in the Windham Regional Plan adopted September 30, 2014, it is the policy of the Windham Regional Commission to:

- Support greater penetration of public access, educational and government programming (PEG) through new PEG group formation and regional agreements. Encourage cable companies and other video programming service providers to support PEG operating and capital budgets. Encourage cable television companies to provide coverage of regular town meetings and other important local events as part of their cable franchise agreements.
- Support increased access to information about local events in user-friendly electronic formats.
- Encourage increased access for residents to state and local public meetings and hearings through Vermont Interactive Television, PEG channels, and other electronic means.

In support of these policies, we urge the Board to require the following as conditions of a renewed Certificate of Public Good.

- Require continued and more robust support of PEG operations and programming.
- List PEG programs individually on interactive program guides. This is the menu for all services on cable so they can be searched and recorded like every other channel.
- Provide local PEG stations with high-definition channels and the financial support to make this possible. High-definition is the new standard for video quality. Unlike other channels, PEG channels are only offered in standard definition even though their programming is created in high-definition.
- Improved capacity for high-quality live programming by the PEG channels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the renewal of the Comcast certificate of public good. Access to cable television is important. PEG programming is increasingly essential to public engagement in local, regional and state governance, civic education, and our region's social fabric.

Sincerely,  
Chris Company  
Executive Director

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Marilyn Marinelli <marilyn.mdm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2015 6:20 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Docket #8301

Dear Christine Peterson,

I am a Vermont resident and Upper Valley community member contacting you on behalf of our Community Access TV station, CATV 8/10. CATV serves five towns in the Upper Valley including Hartford, Norwich and Hartland, Vermont and Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

I cannot imagine my community without coverage of town and school meetings and local events, without countless hours of citizen produced local programming, without media education camps, without a place for training in and access to the newest technology, without thousands of community announcements, without a venue for nonprofits to advance their mission and most importantly – without a platform for free speech and civic engagement.

I would like CATV to be on par with other channels. CATV should be able to broadcast in HD resolution, be listed in the Electronic Programming Guide, and be able to originate live programming from anywhere in the community.

Please help CATV and other Vermont Community Access Stations remain leaders in community media and stay relevant and accessible in the next dawn of cable television. It is imperative that cable providers meet the obligations as intended by Federal regulators in the 1984 Cable Act. The time is now to update the regulations to meet the fast growing technologies of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Marinelli

Paul Marinelli

Sent from my iPad

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** E. D. M.Landman MD <wil0828@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 7:07 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Docket #8301

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am a Vermont resident and Upper Valley community member contacting you on behalf of our Community Access TV station, CATV 8/10. CATV serves five towns in the Upper Valley including Hartford, Norwich and Hartland, Vermont and Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

I cannot imagine my community without coverage of town and school meetings and local events, without countless hours of citizen produced local programming, without media education camps, without a place for training in and access to the newest technology, without thousands of community announcements, without a venue for nonprofits to advance their mission and most importantly – without a platform for free speech and civic engagement.

I would like CATV to be on par with other channels. CATV should be able to broadcast in HD resolution, be listed in the Electronic Programming Guide, and be able to originate live programming from anywhere in the community.

Please help CATV and other Vermont Community Access Stations remain leaders in community media and stay relevant and accessible in the next dawn of cable television. It is imperative that cable providers meet the obligations as intended by Federal regulators in the 1984 Cable Act. The time is now to update the regulations to meet the fast growing technologies of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

--

E. D. M. Landman MD



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Mary Zucker <mzucker56@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 1:24 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Docket # 8301

**Re:** Docket # 8301

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am a Hartford, Vermont resident and Upper Valley community member contacting you on behalf of our Community Access TV station, CATV 8/10. CATV serves five towns in the Upper Valley including Hartford, Norwich and Hartland, Vermont and Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

I cannot imagine my community without coverage of town and school meetings and local events, hours of citizen produced local programming, media education camps, a place for training in and access to the newest technology, thousands of community announcements, a venue for nonprofits to advance their mission and most importantly --a platform for free speech and civic engagement.

**I would like CATV to be on par with other channels. CATV should be able to broadcast in HD resolution, be listed in the Electronic Programming Guide, and be able to originate live programming from anywhere in the community.**

Please help CATV and other Vermont Community Access Stations remain leaders in community media and stay relevant and accessible in the next dawn of cable television. It is imperative that cable providers meet the obligations as intended by Federal regulators in the 1984 Cable Act. The time is now to update the regulations to meet the fast growing technologies of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Mary Zucker

**From:** Valerie Stuart <stuartcomm@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Brattleboro Area's Residents Benefit from and Need BCTV  
**Date:** September 3, 2015 at 9:32:57 PM EDT  
**To:** [christine.peterson@vermont.gov](mailto:christine.peterson@vermont.gov)

Christine Peterson, Coordinator of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Ms. Peterson,

As a member of Vermont's House of Representatives who serves the people of Brattleboro, I write to strongly encourage the Vermont Department of Public Service to renew Comcast's Certificate of Public good in order to ensure the Brattleboro area continues to benefit from the invaluable Public, Educational and Government (PEG) services BCTV provides to our community.

Our area urgently needs to have continued access to the PEG services BCTV provides in the future. BCTV's programming is vital to the Brattleboro area's civic and community life because our area is not covered by any commercial TV station. BCTV's coverage of municipal meetings and news in partnership with local media, organizations and schools is a vital source of news and information to our community's residents. BCTV also broadcasts shows from PEG stations across Vermont, which helps supply our community's residents with news from other parts of the state.

In addition, BCTV's programming gives local residents insight into what's happening at the state level by broadcasting meetings and interviews of bodies ranging from the State Board of Education to the Legislature.

To make it possible for BCTV to provide better service to our community's members, I encourage the PSB to spur Comcast to make some improvements to their service. For example, Comcast needs to list BCTV's program schedule in its cable guide to help viewers find BCTV's programming. It also should be possible for Comcast subscribers to use their remotes to search for local programs or record them as they can for other cable channels. Equally important, Comcast needs to invest in infrastructure to keep up with technological expectations for faster internet speeds for video sharing. Comcast also needs to invest in fiber optic connections that will improve channel quality and allow for live programming from any location.

Vermont should lead the way to change the outdated basis of funding for PEG from cable to internet revenues.

Thank you very much for your attention and for working to ensure that our community continues to benefit from the essential public information as well as community and state news Vermonters demand and deserve.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Stuart

State Representative  
Brattleboro, District 2-1



Cor Trowbridge <cor@brattleborotv.org>

## Letter from The Commons to be entered into testimony for Sept. 9 CPG hearing in Brattleboro

Randy Holhut <randy@commonsnews.org>  
To: christine.peterson@vermont.gov  
Cc: Cor Trowbridge <cor@brattleborotv.org>

Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 11:34 AM

Dear Ms. Peterson,

We see BCTV as a critical partner in our news coverage of Windham County.

The Commons uses BCTV's gavel-to-gavel broadcasts of Selectboard and other governmental bodies to help us cover them more fully. With many towns in our county unable to post meeting minutes promptly, we can access BCTV's coverage as soon as it is made available on its live stream.

As we grow and expand our independent, nonprofit weekly newspaper, we plan to work more closely with BCTV - using its studios and equipment for multimedia training, producing shows and podcasts, and pooling our resources for stronger print and broadcast coverage of Windham County.

We've been impressed with the growth of BCTV in the past couple of years - its commitment to upgrading its studios and equipment and to expanding its news and public affairs programs.

This growth is proof that with sufficient investment in technology, training, and community outreach, public access television can produce quality, relevant programming that both serves and is reflective of the community.

We hope that Comcast will continue this investment by upgrading the BCTV signal to HD and by providing faster Internet service for video streaming and sharing.

We hope that Comcast recognizes the shift in video consumption to a mobile, digital platform, and will support changes in federal rules that supports BCTV's shift from cable to digital distribution.

Most of all, we hope that Comcast recognizes the importance of local, community-oriented, community-generated content, and continues to fully fund BCTV as part of Comcast's public service obligations.

Sincerely,

Randy Holhut, news editor  
The Commons  
Windham County's independent, nonprofit, weekly source of news and views  
Office: (802) 246-6397, ext. 104  
<http://www.commonnews.org>

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** Ken French <ken@kenfrenchmedia.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine; PSB - Clerk  
**Cc:** Seth Mobley  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

Dear PSB,

I urge you to require Comcast to maintain or improve funding for community media programs such as VCAM.

For over five years I have been creating short films and concert videos that have helped to promote the arts in our community. I could not continue to represent such a diverse range of musicians and artists without the support of VCAM.

More importantly, VCAM is teaching others how to produce these type of films, fostering better communication and advocacy for our entire community. The buildout of the new Media Factory and increased outreach efforts are important initiatives that will require continued funding to be successful.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ken French  
Charlotte, VT

From: **HistWinInc** [mailto:HistWinInc@VA1.F3.NF1]  
Subject: **Re: WOA needs your help**  
Date: **October 13, 2015 at 8:19 PM**  
To: [was-126@comcast.net](mailto:was-126@comcast.net)

Dear Paula, Please use this email as a letter of support for continued funding for CATV and Windsor on Air, specifically.

Small communities like Windsor no longer have newspapers, they rely on telecommunications like cable access tv to learn about local politics and programs of interest. Videotaping of public meetings provides important access for people who are home bound. The public service programs, not only educate, but give residents something for which they can be proud of in their communities. Visitors can learn important information about the community and gain access to events sponsored by local nonprofits, the schools, and the Town. The opportunity to educate the citizens before Town Meeting is so valuable.

Historic Windsor has been able to tell important stories of Windsor's history and architectural heritage on WOA thanks to your willingness to videotape programs and projects. Many people stop and tell me how much it means to them to learn about Windsor's history. We simply could not afford to pay for such high-quality video production provided by you and your crew.

I believe we would be lost without Windsor On Air. I urge those reviewing this matter to fund Windsor On Air. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Judy L. Hayward  
Executive Director  
Historic Windsor, Inc.  
PO Box 21  
Windsor, VT 05089

From: **John Mayo** [mayojohn022@gmail.com](mailto:mayojohn022@gmail.com)  
Subject: **Fwd: Windsor On Air**  
Date: **October 8, 2015 at 10:23 AM**  
To: **woa** [woa-iv@comcast.net](mailto:woa-iv@comcast.net)

Hi Paula,  
I sent this letter to Ms. Peterson today..Keep up the good work..

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Mayo** <[mayojohn022@gmail.com](mailto:mayojohn022@gmail.com)>  
Date: **Thu, Oct 8, 2015 at 10:18 AM**  
Subject: **Windsor On Air**  
To: [Shirley.H.Peterson@verizon.net](mailto:Shirley.H.Peterson@verizon.net)

Ms. Peterson

As a person who enjoys Windsor public access television Windsor on Air I am troubled to hear that funding for this station might be at risk as there appears to be a trend in streaming. I'm not quite sure what that means but I can assure you that there are many in Windsor who do not use the latest in technology to get there news and information on local happenings. Windsor On Air provides a service to people who want to keep abreast of what is going on in Windsor and does so in a professional manner and has their finger on the pulse of Windsor and covers what is important to the people of Windsor. Contrary to popular belief not everybody is online or addicted to all the mobile devices and such to get there news, I for one have found Windsor On Air to be very informative about things going on in Windsor that I would have never been privy too had it not been for WOA. Windsor does not have its own newspaper anymore and must rely on the Valleys News out of Lebanon, NH or the eagle times out of Claremont, NH to any news about Windsor and that to them is not a very high priority as far as I can see and Windsor gets little to no coverage on a lot of issues important to Windsor residents and WOA can and does fill that void. When funding decisions are being made about Windsor On Air please remember what a terrific job Windsor On Air staff does and the importance of their contributions to the people of Windsor keeping them informed of things that actually matter in their lives. Please continue to support Windsor on Air..

Respectively,

John Mayo

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Chris Barlow <bhc@ministerhill.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2015 6:49 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** GNAT-TV

I love this station! Please, keep pushing the envelope technology-wise so I can catch gnat on my Nexus. I rely on them for community news and informational programs. They are very responsive to local folks ideas, too. I don't have satellite TV and rely on PEG for my services. Thank You, Chris Barlow, Sandgate, VT

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@vcil.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2015 4:24 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine; director@nwaccess.tv  
**Cc:** lisa@catamountaccess.com  
**Subject:** Public Service Board Public Hearing Docket 8301

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this to express my support for Catamount Access Television. I work for a non-profit, the Vermont Center for Independent Living, and volunteer as a member of another non-profit, the Vermont Workers Center. In both of these roles CAT-TV has been instrumental in getting out to our community information related to the work that these non profits do throughout Vermont and specifically in Bennington.

We are able to connect with residents of Bennington through the recording of our various community meetings and candidates forums with their subsequent replays on CAT-TV. This allows us to maximize the outreach that we conduct on the issues related to disability and working Vermonters. If CAT-TV was able to televise our community meetings and candidates forums live in real time our outreach would be significantly enhanced.

For example, in addition to our community meetings and candidates forums, Catamount Access Television has assisted us in producing a show that we created consisting of several vignettes to be aired here in Bennington. Also, I and another person with a visual impairment were interviewed on another PEG channel (GNAT) about living with limited or no vision and the importance of the white cane we use for our mobility. Though that show was produced on GNAT, it was also aired on CAT-TV.

I would suggest that the CAT-TV schedule be included on the Comcast program guide. With the new "box" that Comcast is introducing, people like myself with no vision can hear what selections we have to choose from. I would also like to suggest that we be able to "stream" the CAT-TV channels on an app to our mobile device.

Catamount Access Technologies is an instrumental conduit of communication in our community. Please support and strengthen its presence.

Charlie Murphy  
21 Tinkham West  
Bennington  
802-447-7119



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Deborah Felmeth <dfelmeth@vtlink.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 6:31 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

Hello Christine,

I strongly encourage continued PEG access funding. PEG access is a unique and powerful platform for communities. Strong communities build a State of well informed, conscientious, active citizens, involved in discussions of importance to the welfare of each and every individual and important to the presentation of the State in the National sphere.

For this reason it is important also that signal quality be comparable to other channels and that no interference with service should be detected. We owe it to the Constitution and to the children who will inherit whatever systems of information distribution we have created, even as these platforms change more rapidly than we can predict, still ensuring their well being and their freedom of expression for years to come and ours in the present moment.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Felmeth  
Waltham, Vermont

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Maxwell, Gay <gmaxwell@brattlebororetreat.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 7:38 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clérk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** cor@brattleborotv.org  
**Subject:** Ref. #8301

Dear Ms. Hudson and Ms. Peterson,

I am writing on behalf of Brattleboro Community Television and its relationship with the Brattleboro Retreat where I am the manager of the Office of Continuing Education.

Several years ago BCTV and the Retreat began producing a program together called "Keep Talking" in an effort to educate the public about mental health. We have produced half-hour episodes focused on such topics as anxiety in children, coping with depression during the holidays, perfectionism, personality disorders, and suicide prevention, all in an attempt to de-stigmatize mental illness and provide valuable information about treatment options and support. These programs have not only played on BCTV, but have been picked up by community television stations throughout the state, and we hope Keep Talking has benefited many Vermonters.

We feel strongly that we are likely to reach many more Vermonters if these programs can be listed accurately in the Interactive Program Guide. As it is now, anyone viewing the Interactive Program Guide has no idea that our programming exists, and that is sad indeed.

We also are aware that while we are produced in high definition, Comcast offers community television programming in standard definition, which significantly alters the quality for the viewing audience, making it much more likely that the viewer will switch to another channels that offer HD definition.

These seem like very simple accommodations that shouldn't wait another 11 years. Please do everything in your power to get Comcast to meet these needs.

Thank you.

Gay B. Maxwell  
Manager, Office of Continuing Education  
P.O. Box 803  
Brattleboro Retreat  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301  
802-258-6737  
[gmaxwell@brattlebororetreat.org](mailto:gmaxwell@brattlebororetreat.org)

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Nick deTarnowsky <blueskyvtweddings@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:53 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** MMCTV15  
**Subject:** Western Slopes Business Association supports MMC-TV

Dear Christine,

This is a letter of support for MMC -TV15 in Richmond, Vermont. The Station has helped spread the word about our business community through their airings of WSBA sponsored events and other community events. With the use of their equipment, I have been able to film and post videos to various social media outlets in marketing our Western Slopes community. They are there to educate, facilitate and broadcast our area to the world!

Sincerely,

Nick deTarnowsky  
President WSBA

Blue Sky Weddings and Events  
Nick deTarnowsky  
Blueskyweddingsandevents.com  
802-434-4483  
[Blueskyvtweddings@gmail.com](mailto:Blueskyvtweddings@gmail.com)

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Daniel Weiss <dweiss@burlingtontelecom.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 6:21 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Comment for the Public Service Board:

Regarding the renewal of Comcast's Certificate of Public Good, the PSB should require that Comcast continue to provide the funding that supports a robust local access infrastructure. I have been a community media producer for about 10 years and have produced well over 200 individual shows. This would not have been possible without local access stations such as Vermont Community Access Media (VCAM) having the infrastructure that promotes quality broadcast media. I urge you to require Comcast to fund these efforts for the fullest amount possible. It is essential that local voices are able to reach their community with media facilities that make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Weiss  
161 Austin Drive - #106  
Burlington, VT 05401

## Peterson, Christine

---

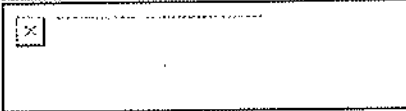
**From:** Chris Morrow <cmorrow@northshire.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 4:52 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine; director@northwestaccess.tv  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

Hello  
I'd like you to know how much we value having GNAT in our region as a public access TV station. It serves many community needs for the dissemination of important information as well as promoting the arts and entertainment. It is truly a community resource that deserves support. There are no market oriented businesses that would fill the void if we lost public access TV - it serves a unique and vital function.

Thank you,  
Chris Morrow

--

Chris Morrow  
Northshire Bookstores  
1-802-362-3565 x120  
[www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com)



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Hannah Dennison <ctgahwd@sover.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Sadiy, I was not able to attend the public meeting but would like to put my voice in the mix regarding the renewal of Comcast's "Certificate of Public Good" for community access media channels, in particular, ORCA Media where I have recently worked.

I am a dance artist and have created and presented award-winning work in northwestern Vermont for nearly 40 years. The Community Access channels, beginning with RETN in Burlington, and now ORCA Media have been great and invaluable partners in the work I have done. They have supplied equipment, taught whomever I had as cinematographer how to use the equipment, been the location of editing the footage, and then broadcast the final product on their networks. Several of the young cinematographers I worked with have gone on to careers in broadcast and media, thanks to their initial positive experience with Community Access. Over the years, many people have stopped me on the street to say how much they appreciated seeing the dance project on their Access channel and learning more about their city and region as a result.

If it wasn't for the network of Community Access channels, my work would not have the reach it does and the impact in the community that it has from these partnerships. I strongly encourage the renewal of the "Certificate of Public Good".

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Hannah Dennison  
Cradle to Grave Arts  
PO Box 8  
Chelsea VT 05038  
802-595-0410 - home  
[www.hannahdennison.org](http://www.hannahdennison.org)  
[ctgahwd@sover.net](mailto:ctgahwd@sover.net)

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Scottie R. Shattuck <Scottie.Shattuck@mahhc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2015 12:53 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** woa-tv@comcast.net; Martha E. Zoerheide  
**Subject:** WOA-TV Station and Comcast

Dear Christine,

I am writing with regards to Comcast's renewing the CPG with the State of Vermont. This recommendation is in regards to the Public Access Station WOA-TV (Windsor on Air) in Windsor, VT.

We are a non-profit organization which helps Senior citizens stay in their homes longer by providing rides to hospitals, doctor appointments, grocery shopping, etc. We also coordinate the Meals on Wheels Program for the seven surrounding towns. In addition, we coordinate three community meals per month for seniors to go out to eat for a small donation but with a lot of socialization which is also good for their health. We do all this and other services through Volunteers in the surrounding towns.

We continue to advertize every month through the WOA-TV community information access to not only recruit volunteers, but also to let the residents know about our services. I also am aware of many seniors who watch the WOA-TV station in order to know what is going on in their communities. The WOA Station is extremely important to the surrounding communities, their residents, their businesses, and the community programs offered which are brought to the attention of the area residents. We ask that WOA-TV be allowed to continue their TV Access Station as it is a very integral part of Windsor, VT and surrounding communities as a very integral part of this area!

Thank you for your consideration and continued support!

Scottie Shattuck  
Volunteers-In-Action  
P.O. Box 707  
Windsor, VT 05089  
Tel: 802-674-5971  
scottie.shattuck@mahhc.org

Office in Historic Windsor House  
Connecting neighbors with needs and people who care.....

Mt Ascutney Hospital and Health Center

Note: The information contained in this message and any attachments is privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, or other use of this communication or any of its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message and deleting this message, any attachments, and all copies and backups from your computer. If you have received this communication in error and are unable to reply to this message, please notify the sender immediately by contacting Mt Ascutney Hospital at (802) 674-6711

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Hardwick Community Television <hardwicktv@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 1:23 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; director@northwestaccess.tv; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

I'm forwarding this letter from Hardwick resident Rachel Kane.

Thank you.

Leif Goldberg  
Executive Director  
Hardwick Community Television  
[www.hctv.us](http://www.hctv.us)  
(802)472-6655

To whom it may concern at Comcast,  
Re: Hardwick Community TV

I am writing in support of our Hardwick Community Television, of which I have been a board member for the past 2 years. Our local TV station has become important for many of our seniors, who no may no longer wish to go out at night, or who might have trouble sitting on hard chairs(!) in order to attend town meetings. It is also very useful to people who have conflicting work or meeting schedules. The spike funding we received at the station in 2012 was crucial in obtaining a new broadcast computer, which has allowed us to keep up with the demand much more efficiently, so my thanks for that. We hold regular camera trainings, to involve the public not only in recording public events, but in producing interviews, announcements and education about matters of interest. The camera and computer equipment available for us to use is a real asset to the town.

Thank you, Rachel Kane  
East Hardwick, VT



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Zachary McNaughton <zachmac@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:41 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine; PSB - Clerk  
**Subject:** PEG TV

To whom it may concern,

My name is Zachary McNaughton, I teach Video Production here in Vermont and work closely with SAPA TV and LPCTV. Public Access Television has been a fantastic outlet for students to publish their work in our communities. I am writing this email in support for continued support of PEG Access TV. Additionally, I STRONGLY feel that as more and more video content goes online we should look at an access fee for internet services. It is my understanding that part of the original reasoning for PEG Access fees were for cable utility companies to pay "rent" for using road right-of-ways to deliver cable television. Now more and more TV is being watched on the internet and those lines are still located on the utility poles in the road side right of way. As such, It makes sense to extend the Access fees to internet. As you know, TV is becoming more and more of a monopoly and smaller states such as Vermont get less and less local programming. PEG has done a fantastic job at filling this gap and it would be a shame to see funding for these stations dry up as more and more Cable TV subscribers switch to internet streaming services.

Thanks for taking the time to read this email. I appreciate the work that you do!  
Zachary McNaughton  
802.659.4867

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** CATV 8/10 <info@catv8.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Docket # 8301

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Steven Thoms <sthoms@wavecomm.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Public Hearing  
**To:** [info@catv8.org](mailto:info@catv8.org)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am out of town for work this week and will miss the hearing. In lieu, please consider this my testimony/statement. I hope that Comcast can/does provide us with individual program listings in the guide, and statewide, high definition channels. It is ridiculous that they provide so little. If all community channels were listed across the state, program by program, use of the public airwaves for public business would enliven our communities in ways we have not yet imagined. If people could see what others would doing, it would inspire all to get involved and express themselves for the greater good. It seems the least they could do given the amount of money they remove from our economy. Comcast makes a lot of money from us, and whatever we want in return as far a distribution and interactivity should be granted.

And while I am at it. Could someone ask their representatives where their fiber optic network is? As a decades long customer, I am completely dumbfounded that the network is still copper wire. It seems to me they are charging more and more for a technology that is no longer up to the demands of its users. Without competition, they seem to be sitting on their monopoly and making their money providing underperforming service on outdated equipment.

I, and hopefully everyone else in the area, will be getting ECFiber just as soon as it is available to me. Community owned distribution and infrastructure are the only solution to the inane shenanigans Comcast and its sister monopolies visit on us every day. (I mean that exactly as I said it; shenanigans 'secret or dishonest activity or maneuvering.')

Sincerely,

Steven Thoms  
60 Pine Tree RD  
Norwich, VT

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** jim heltz <jim@greenmountainvideo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Seth Mobley  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301  
**Attachments:** James R. Heltz.vcf

Hello,  
VCAM is a vital resource to the local community. It is giving a voice to those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to have their point of view heard. As a filmmaker I have seen first hand the impact of having this free and accessible community media available to everyone. I recently co-directed an awarding winning short film called [I am in here](#). The film was written and starred Mark Utter a Vermont man with a communication disability. Through the power of film we get see what life is like through Mark's eyes. The film not only has changed the perspective of those that have seen it on VCAM but has also changed Mark's life as well. He now has a show on VCAM discussing issues relevant to the local community. It is a truly amazing story and VCAM was there to help make it happen. VCAM's commitment to airing local films and supplying filmmakers with the equipment to make those films is an asset to the Chittenden County community.

Take Care,  
Jim  
James R. Heltz  
Green Mountain Video, Inc.  
PO Box 938  
Williston, VT 05495  
802 872-7000  
[jim@greenmountainvideo.com](mailto:jim@greenmountainvideo.com)  
creator of the tommyTRACK

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Rebecca Coffey <rcoffey@rebeccacoffey.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 11:38 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Re: Docket #8301

Public Service Board,

I'm a former school board member in Putney, VT and am a member of the town's Affordable Housing Committee. I want you to know that BCTV's coverage of Putney Town meetings is extraordinarily popular in Putney and helpful to the smooth functioning of town government. I think the popularity will only increase as the population ages and getting out in difficult weather becomes more difficult and dangerous for many.

BCTV trains people of all ages on the use of both studio and portable equipment, making television production truly accessible and ensuring that there will always be crews available to cover town politics and arts events. BCTV's workshops are excellent, and their crews' deportment during town meetings is admirable. I'm a journalist by trade, and I consider BCTV's evening news program the best news program around.

Which is all to say that BCTV provides a necessary service extraordinarily well. It would of course be very helpful if Comcast would give BCTV the same level of infrastructure support it gives its other channels. As television in general becomes more high-def, BCTV will need its facilities and channel to keep pace. And beginning now its programs should be listed on Comcast's interactive program guide.

Thank you for taking public input.

Rebecca Coffey  
Putney, Vermont

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Margaret Harrington Tamulonis <margaret@english-advantage.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:43 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** Docket #8301

Open Access TV is interesting because I learn about news on environment, nature, schools, politics, issues, interesting people, things I can't find on mainstream stations or in the few newspapers and magazines in Vermont. In my opinion Ch 17, Open Access TV is a lifeline especially in winter when it's impossible to travel to public meetings and other events; Ch 17 tells me what's going on. It's impossible to think it might go away. In fact it should be expanded to cover full state events.

Thanks,  
Margaret Harrington Tamulonis

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Mike Yantachka <myantachka.dfa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 3:08 PM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

I am writing to strongly encourage the PSB to take steps to continue the support of local-access television in Vermont as it considers the contract renewal of Comcast. LATV provides a great service in keeping people informed not only through its coverage of local government meetings for those who cannot attend but also for the citizen-produced shows that contain information and creative expression that would not otherwise be available to the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Mike

Rep. Mike Yantachka  
Charlotte-Hinesburg (Chit 4-1)  
[www.mikeyantachka.com](http://www.mikeyantachka.com)  
(802) 233-5238

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Linda Parent <lparent@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 2:10 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine; director@nwaccess.tv  
**Subject:** Mt Mansfield Community Television

Mt Mansfield Community Television is an essential part of our community.

They produce programs such as the Richmond Police Beat & reports from the State Representative Ann O'Brien.

They are always willing to provide time on air for informational sections for such things as the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> activities.

They provide on air steaming of the July 4 parade so that those at home can enjoy the celebration.

MMCTV tapes the town committee meetings and broadcasts them, such as Selectboard, Planning and Development Review Board.

The residents of the Town of Richmond rely on the good work of MMCVT and hope they will be part of our community for years to come.

Respectfully,

Linda M Parent, Richmond Town Clerk

Linda M Parent, CVC, Richmond Town Clerk

Town of Richmond, Vermont

203 Bridge Street

PO Box 285

Richmond, VT 05477

[lparent@gmavt.net](mailto:lparent@gmavt.net)

phone 802-434-2221

fax 802-329-2011

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** infomeVT@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 11:57 AM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Seth@vermontcam.org  
**Subject:** re: Comcast - Public Services Board hearing

excerpt from VCAM information:

*We believe that everyone has a right to access community media and media-making and distribution services. We believe that a 21<sup>st</sup> century media infrastructure in Vermont is as critical a utility as electricity was in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We believe that Comcast should uphold this commitment to the public good and to the people of Vermont.*

I live in Winooski and have been privileged to be a part of the opportunities provided by VCAM as well as be a happy recipient of its many broadcasts.

This same opportunity should be available across the State of Vermont. I encourage your positive reaction to Comcast providing broad-based community services such as provided by VCAM across the entire state of Vermont.

VCAM member  
Melody Cooke



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Elizabeth Griffin <pastorliz@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 7:48 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** LCATV

To Whom it Concerns:

My experiences with LCATV have been brief, but positive. Several years ago I was responsible for a local arts and crafts event, Art in Bloom, in Fairfax, Vermont. A technician from LCATV came, interviewed me, went about the site, interviewed and filmed others to be broadcast later. This provided those who could not attend an opportunity to see what was going on, and it provided the event with promotion for future Art in Bloom shows. This year, Kevin from LCATV, at my request, came and spent several hours filming at the Arnold Zlotoff Tool Museum at the Apple Island Resort. He made a wonderful video about the museum and had many shots of the various tools on display. I have had many positive comments about this video.

I surely support the work LCATV is doing in and for our communities. For those house bound, or with limited opportunities, this station provides opportunities to find out about what is happening, and experience what is happening within our communities.

Thank you

Rev. Elizabeth Griffin, Fairfax VT

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Mark Hyde <uhydemt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 6:26 AM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine; director@nwaccess.tv  
**Subject:** GNAT and Public Service Funding

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Sunderland Vermont. I am selectboard chair in the town. We consider GNAT-TV to be a public resource to the town. GNAT-TV films and publishes all town meetings by video (town, school board and annual meeting). This is a very important resource to the town and allows greater participation in town government in today's busy world. You can view a meeting at the GNAT website at any time rather than having to physically be at the meetings. This has allowed for much greater access to town and school government and we find that these videos are consistently watched by residents. GNAT also frequently hosts community events and allows access to their studios for residents which is a huge benefit.

Please continue to fund GNAT-TV and allow these great resources to continue.

Mark Hyde  
Sunderland Selectboard Chair

--

Mark Hyde  
[uhydemt@gmail.com](mailto:uhydemt@gmail.com)

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** John Halvey <halvey123@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 18, 2015 3:59 PM  
**To:** seth@vermontcam.org  
**Cc:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** VCAM Assets Accessible To Vermonters

Dear Public Service Board Members,

Please provide access for all Vermonters to community access media such as we have in Burlington at the VCAM studios.

Please ask Comcast to provide adequate bandwidth and needed hardware/software for the talented technical VCAM employees to help us Vermonters produce are own videos.

This is a great way to bring knowledge/arts to the community and is a statement of who we are as a culture and society.

VCAM helped me produce a Classical Guitar Recital in the Spring of 2013 and I will always be grateful for all the kind, friendly, knowledgeable support the staff gave me.

Sincerely John Halvey 27 Tracy Dr Burlington Vt 05408

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** Lee Russ <leeruss2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 6:39 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** director@northwestaccess.tv  
**Subject:** Docket #8301

Dear Christine Peterson,

I cannot make it to the hearing on the renewal of Comcast's Certificate of Public Good, but definitely wanted to share my views on the value of CAT-TV to the Bennington area. As you undoubtedly know, Bennington has no commercial television outlet of its own (and only one radio station). CAT-TV not only provides valuable coverage of local boards and meetings, it offers the only source of truly local news and events.

Given that importance to our area, I urge you to require Comcast to: (1) Make it easier for its customers to access CAT-TV's schedule by including its programming on the "Guide" function of Comcast remote controls; and (2) Air CAT-TV programming in HD, which is rapidly becoming the standard for viewers.

Local Comcast customers would also benefit if CAT-TV had the ability to do live broadcasting from anywhere in its service area, rather than being forced to tape events and replay them later.

Sincerely,  
Lee Russ  
Bennington

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** John Connell <jc6greenmont@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:06 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine

Dear Christine,

I am a resident of Underhill Center. I wish to submit my support for MMCTV!!

This media has embellished and brought forward several community related events that I have initiated within the last three years.

The support of MMCTV has been essential to the growing of these community offerings.

The Community Agriculture Project, the Farm to School Correspondence Program operated by the Northeastern Organic Farming Organization, and the local community based programming of Grennmont Farms, Underhill Center credit their growth to MMCTV.

I love the idea in a society that believes in freedom of the press and freedom of speech that serious, professional media is available to strengthen, educate, and entertain our Jericho/Underhill Community.

We are very lucky to have MMCTV. Please know that I fully support MMCTV.

Sincerely,  
John Connell

Greenmont Farms  
Underhill Center

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Jan <jdevries@together.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 10, 2015 8:22 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Angelike Conti; timothy nulty; director@nwaccess.tv  
**Subject:** Local cable public access channels

Thanks for your invitation to a focus group. Being hard of hearing, I have to resort to email.

Local media are important. [This recent article](#) lists many reasons.

The 'old' media, TV, radio and newspapers are threatened by the Internet because it is cheaper and more convenient. Anyone with access to the internet can look anytime, anywhere. That is good for Comcast. People need Internet access and cable is an attractive option.

The problem is the production of content. Free market forces in the form of advertising do not provide information and news in a way that provides the most benefit to the most people. The law that requires cable companies to fund local TV stations recognizes that. However, one can argue that phone companies should contribute similarly. Cable subscribers pay indirectly for their local TV station; phone subscribers do not contribute. The similarity between the Internet and roads suggests that funding by local taxes is reasonable. But I realize that reasonable does not imply feasible.

Whatever way of funding is decided upon, it would be a shame if Mount Mansfield Community TV disappeared for lack of funding. It is amazing what Angelike Conti and her small group do with limited funds. Their productions add interest and cohesion to our local community.

Jan de Vries  
73 McClellan Farm Road  
Underhill Vermont 05489  
1-802-899-5194

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** Paula Wehde <woa-tv@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:57 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** WOA letter of support

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [HistWinInc@valley.net](mailto:HistWinInc@valley.net) (HistWinInc)  
**Subject:** **Re: WOA needs your help**  
**Date:** October 13, 2015 at 8:18:46 PM EDT  
**To:** [woa-tv@comcast.net](mailto:woa-tv@comcast.net)

Dear Paula, Please use this email as a letter of support for continued funding for CATV and Windsor on Air, specifically.

Small communities like Windsor no longer have newspapers, they rely on telecommunications like cable access tv to learn about local politics and programs of interest. Videotaping of public meetings provides important access for people who are home bound. The public service programs, not only educate, but give residents something for which they can be proud of in their communities. Visitors can learn important information about the community and gain access to events sponsored by local nonprofits, the schools, and the Town. The opportunity to educate the citizens before Town Meeting is so valuable.

Historic Windsor has been able to tell important stories of Windsor's history and architectural heritage on WOA thanks to your willingness to videotape programs and projects. Many people stop and tell me how much it means to them to learn about Windsor's history. We simply could not afford to pay for such high-quality video production provided by you and your crew.

I believe we would be lost without Windsor On Air. I urge those reviewing this matter to fund Windsor On Air. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Judy L. Hayward  
Executive Director  
Historic Windsor, Inc.  
PO Box 21  
Windsor, VT 05089

Paula Wehde  
Station Director  
WOA-TV (Windsor on Air)  
802-674-5200

**Peterson, Christine**

---

**From:** SmithRDUR@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** RE: Docket 8301

Public Television:

One of the biggest problems with Comcast is the interactive guide. Without knowing when a program is on:

- 1) It seems to force stations to repeat programs costing more money
- 2) It means a lot of good educational and public service programs are not seen wasting the money to produce them
- 3) It means public stations have to pay for ads to list program details or use cheaper summary highlight ads which don't mention all the programs
- 4) Viewer and taxpayer money is wasted on something that can't be seen.
- 5) it costs money to set up elaborate archival computer systems which require extra effort by the viewer to research.

Thank you

Dick Smith Manchester Vermont 802-362-4314



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Danny Frank <dannyfrank@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 12:01 PM  
**To:** tammie@gnat-tv.org  
**Cc:** Peterson, Christine; PSB - Clerk  
**Subject:** IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING GNAT TV AND OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS STATIONS THROUGHOUT VT.

DEAR VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD:

My family and I urge that you preserve, maintain, and perhaps, even expand "public access television" in the State of Vermont---especially GNAT-TV. Over the past four or five years, GNAT-TV has demonstrated itself to be an important, vital communication source in Manchester, surrounding communities and southern Vermont. It has become a "lifeblood" of Bennington County and beyond through the creative, grass-roots community programming it has facilitated---and the multitude of people who participate through GNAT!

"Public Access" television has become a new, credible vehicle to bring community news and activities to television, which conventional, commercial television would never be able to cover.

It is wonderful that a portion of my cable television bill goes to pay for "public access". It is actually one of the main reasons, why I continue to pay for cable TV because "public access" and the programming it has developed is a very worthwhile feature.

In the case of GNAT-TV and some of its nearby "public access" affiliates---the southern half of Vermont is a dead-zone for commercial television---it is non-existent. Southern Vermont is beholden to loyalties and coverage in the extreme northern part of Vermont, Burlington and beyond. Or, via several Albany television stations ninety minutes away in New York State. So again, GNAT-TV fills a vacuum unique and different to the FCC licensing of many states and regions.

Please do not discourage or diminish this valuable asset. Respectfully submitted,  
DANNY FRANK, [DANNYFRANK@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DANNYFRANK@COMCAST.NET), PO BOX 1147, MANCHESTER VILLAGE, VERMONT 05254

---

**From:** "GNAT-TV" <tammie@gnat-tv.org>  
**To:** dannyfrank@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 8:00:25 AM  
**Subject:** Your Only Chance Until 2027



## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Bob Stannard <bob@bobstannard.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 11:21 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** 'Tammie Reilly'  
**Subject:** Comcast CPG renewal

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the renewal of the Certificate of Public Good for Comcast Cable Television to be able to operate in Vermont.

I am supportive of the renewal of their CPG with the condition that they continue funding our local access TV stations. Having served in the Vermont Legislature in the early '80's I had the occasion to participate in the reissuance of a CPG for then Gateway Cable TV. At that time they were refusing to provide service to some of our more rural Vermonters.

Now, decades later here we are again. The 10-year CPG is about the only leverage we have over large media corporations and it appears as though we will need to use that leverage in order to save one of the more valuable assets of our state; local access TV.

I have some experience in the local access TV world. I hosted a show, "Q&A LIVE" for over eight years. The show was created by a young, Arlington High School student. Upon his graduating from high school the show was taken over by Vermont author and columnist, Don Keelan, who hosted the show for five more years. Don retired to write another novel and I was asked if I would be interested in hosting the show.

I hosted this show for over eight years, during which time I was fortunate enough to introduce some very interesting people to the viewers, including but not limited to Gov. Jim Douglas, Cong. Peter Welch, Sen. Bernie Sanders, NY Times columnist Paul Krugman, and other celebrities too numerous to mention.

Not only did the public benefit from the show. My show was 100% managed and produced by young adults from surrounding schools. Kids ran the cameras. They edited and produced the show. They helped manage the guests. They did it all. I simply conducted the interviews.

When I took over the show my first producer was 11 year old Michael Grossfeld. Mike was with me throughout most of the time I did the show. He has since graduated college and is embarking on a successful career in media. There can be no doubt that GNAT-TV played an instrumental role in his life; as well as the lives of the kids who worked on my show.

Local access TV is one of Vermont's greatest assets and it needs the continued support from Comcast. As I stated in my opening I fully support the reauthorization of the CPG, but only with the condition that this company that last year posted a \$2 billion profit, continue its support of our cherished local access television stations.

Best regards,

Bob Stannard -- author, columnist, musician; former host of Q & A LIVE.  
[bob@bobstannard.com](mailto:bob@bobstannard.com)  
802-345-0786 c  
802-362-3658 o  
117 Sleepy Hollow Dr. Manchester Ctr, Vt 05255

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Morella Devost <mdevost@transformationone.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 9:42 AM  
**To:** PSB - Clerk; Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** Seth Mobley  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301 (Comcast Certificate of Public Good)

Good morning,

I am writing because I cannot attend the public hearing regarding Comcast's CPG renewal this coming Wednesday.

I would like to share a few thoughts on the importance of maintaining support for community access media as part of Comcast's CPG.

I produce a show called Holistically Speaking that has been regularly airing for approximately 3 years. I make no money from this show, it's my labor of love because I believe that people need to be informed about ALL options available to them when it comes to create better health for themselves, their communities and the planet.

The mission of the show is to provide our community with educational information and community resources regarding health and healing. Here are four examples of shows we've done:

- Lyme disease awareness, how to address it early and where to find support
- Bullying - how to teach kids to be the heroes in their schools
- Alternative approaches to cancer treatment - how chiropractic, Chinese medicine, naturopathic and nutrition can support cancer - where to look for help
- How to participate in composting and soil regeneration in order to reverse the erosion of top soil that is contributing to both the contamination of Lake Champlain (at a local level) AND to bringing about another dustbowl in the agriculture states (on a national level)

These are topics that are not often covered in mainstream media, and when they are covered they don't really address the local concerns. Our viewers write us and connect with the people they see on the show. People find resources and ideas through our show.

If Comcast is no longer required to provide funding for community access media, our communities will be left with nothing but the mass-produced, advertising-driven content of the NBCs, Fox, CNNs of cable. Our economy and our political systems are increasingly controlled by the small handful of the very powerful. Community access media is one of the few avenues through which everyday people from any walk of life can make their voices heard.

Many thanks for your consideration.

-----  
**Morella Devost**

802.489.5379

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Wendy Erikson <wendy@vermontcam.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

Christine Peterson  
Vermont Public Service Board  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

October 21, 2015

Wendy Erikson  
532 Webster Road  
Vergennes, Vermont 05491

Dear Ms. Peterson and the Vermont Public Service Board,

I am writing you today to show my support for Vermont's community media centers. I started working at VCAM in July and have witnessed first hand how important this media center is for the community. Everyday a myriad of folks from various backgrounds, different opinions and unique ideologies come in to make their voices heard. The viewers' experience is enriched by exposure from everything from folk music, Somali-Bantu News, holistic healing, video gaming, local interviews, religious inspirations and everything in between. But it is more than that.

These public stations are a gathering place where people from these different factions can come, have personal interactions and share a common interest. On a personal note, I would have never have met most of the VCAM members had I not worked there. In just the last month and a half, people have come to VCAM to watch the Democratic Debates, to brainstorm about operating a low power radio station and to enjoy artistic expression at the South End Art Hop. It is a community melting pot by bringing different groups together.

If you combine these benefits with the frequent classes and free public accesses to the state of the art media equipment, it is hard to imagine another endeavor that can reach and benefit so many folks.

In light of these enormous community benefits, I urge you to support for Comcast's CPG renewal.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me.

Wendy Erikson  
802-598-1617

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Emily Anderson <emilychristi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 2:40 PM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Subject:** PSB Docket #8301

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing in support of Community Media.

I live in the Burlington area and believe our civic and cultural life is greatly enhanced by our local access stations; VCAM, CCTV and RETN. I know this is true throughout Vermont which is served by a strong network of access stations.

Community Media allows people to connect through true stories with the people who live in their communities. Community Media allows every day people to make their own TV shows about things that matter to them and, hopefully, their local communities. Community Centers serve not only as spaces in which material is generated and shared but also as learning centers where every day people can learn how to use state of the art media tools and resources.

Lastly, when I learned that some of the funds for it are generated by the tax that Comcast pays for using the public airways I had a renewed sense of justice.

Please renew Comcast's contract and keep Community Media in it. We need all sides of the story especially the ones that come from right around the corner.

Thank you!

Best,

Emily

## Peterson, Christine

---

**From:** Bud Kafer <ladybugx4@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 7:15 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Christine  
**Cc:** pcody@lpctv.org  
**Subject:** Comcast Cable concerns

Hello,

We have been told you are looking for comments regarding the Comcast service for the relicensing.

We have been cable customers for decades here in Plymouth.

Our principle issue is cost. We are both retired and the monthly cost is too high.

We have the 'Triple Play' plan because we need all 3 features, but we would prefer the ability to select far less channels of TV in order to reduce our costs. There are so many channels that we have NEVER watched.

Thank you,

Lee & Sheila Kafer