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For Charter Communications NW CT Area 19

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13 March 2015 Testimony in Support of Proposed House Bills
HB6436, HB6437, HB 6438: An Act to Stabilize the Funding for the
CT Institution of Community Access Television.

*PHB-6436: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Assembly convened: That subsection (k) of title 16-331a of the general
statutes be amended to allow companies or organizations responsible for
community access operations to collect community access fees from **all** subscribers
of any services provided by multichannel video programming distributors
including Internet, cable television and telephone.*

The words that are bold and underscored are the suggested
additions to the existing CT law CGS 16-331a(k).

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Regarding the Language of the PHB-6436, 6437, & 6438,
MAY ACTUALLY INTRODUCE ANOTHER LOOPHOLE AS PROPOSED.
PLEASE REPAIR THIS OVERSIGHT.**

**The proposed bill has omitted important portions of the original CGS 16-331a(k)
language**

1. ...*“The department shall establish the amount that the”....*
2. ... *“SHALL RECEIVE FOR SUCH OPERATIONS”*

A new possible interpretation of the proposal could be: The designated
community access providers become responsible for COLLECTING the
subscriber fees from customers of the MVPD license holders. While this is
a very fine point, it becomes an even larger loophole for the MVPD license
holders; Larger than the loophole the MVPD’s have already exposed by
arbitrarily creating groups “exempt” from access subscriber fees.

CGS 16-331a (As written)

(k) The department shall establish the amount that the company or organization
responsible for community access operations shall receive for such operations from
subscribers and from multichannel video programming distributors.

(Proposed draft revision)

(k) The department shall establish the amount that the company or organization
responsible for community access operations shall receive for such operations from ***all***
subscribers ***to any services of*** multichannel video programming distributors.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Chairman, district 19 Cable Advisory Council