



Town of  
Carrabassett Valley  
1001 Carriage Road  
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To: Committee Chairs Senator Mark Lawrence and Representative S. Paige Zeigler and members of the Legislative Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

From: Town of Carrabassett Valley

Date: November 2nd, 2023

Re: Support of L.D. 1967 'An Act to support municipal franchise agreements'

Dear Committee Members:

The Town of Carrabassett Valley has had a Public Educational Channel (PEG) for over forty years and has had the benefit of an agreement with WSKI-TV serving our Town and the other communities in the Maine High Peaks region to operate our channel with highly relevant local content that viewers can't get anywhere else.

The fact that this content has been of great on-going value to our community for so long, helps demonstrate the case that local channels should not be marginalized by being carried via antiquated technology Standard Definition (SD) resolution vs the industry standard High Definition (HD) or worse: effectively "put on the shelf" by not being packaged as part of the VSP's new streaming Apps technology.

This latter issue is of great concern to the Town of Carrabassett Valley because most of our taxpayers (3,000 accounts) & TV subscribers are not full-time residents yet benefit immensely from the information WSKI produces. WSKI is also huge help for our many local businesses and event announcements in addition for public service announcements.

Currently, anyone who subscribes to a streaming App from Spectrum or Roku or YouTube TV CANNOT receive WSKI as part of their package. This is a big disappointment and it's our understanding that L.D. 1967 would update much needed franchise agreement language in the statutes ("video service providers" versus "cable television operators") and protect local PEG Channels. We are encouraged to see support of this proposed legislation from the Maine Municipal Association which shows the importance of this legislation to Towns and Cities across the State.

We strongly support passage of L.D. 1967. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for listening to our concerns and we hope you will support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Cota". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" in "Cota".

Dave Cota, Town Manager for the  
Carrabassett Valley Select Board