5 March 2026

TO: Chair Matt Birong, Co-Chair Lisa Hango + Members of Vermont House Government Operations + Military Affairs Committee

FROM: Lauren-Glenn Davitian, VAN, davitian@cctv.org + Llu Mulvaney Stanak, VT Community Radio Network, llu@wgdr.org

RE: Community Media FY27 Budget Request + Omnibus Emergency Management Bill 26-0550

Thank you for including Vermont Access Network and Vermont Community Radio Network's FY27 Budget request in the HGOPs Budget Memo to House Appropriations.

We wanted to add additional comments given the Committee's discussion of the Omnibus Emergency Management bill 26-0550.

Both community TV and radio are vital, hyper local media sources for everyone. Our 24 community media centers and 9 radio stations are non-commercial sources for local news, views, views, information, and entertainmententertainment covering 13 of Vermont's 14 counties.

Community radio is free and available to all, no matter cellphone, cable, or internet access. These stations are part of Vermonters everyday lives, available when emergent situations happen, with live response on how to get and give help in a local or regional emergency.

Community TV keeps democracy accessible and accountable, bringing hybrid public meetings coverage to cable and internet subscribers, enabling municipalities to engage with residents as local decisions are made, including how to manage and recover from disasters.

We stand ready to support Vermont's emergency management response, in real time and in the critical weeks and months afterward during recovery. Thank you.