

The Impact of House Bill 113 on New Hampshire Public Television

WHAT HB 113 WOULD DO. House Bill 113 would effectively eliminate state funding for NHPTV, or \$2.7 million annually (31% of NHPTV's FY10 \$8.8 million budget). It also essentially prohibits NHPTV from doing business or partnering with state agencies as it does now. (NHPTV is a unit of the University System of New Hampshire and receives its state funding through USNH.) **HB 113 is a bad bill for these core reasons:**

1. HB113 would prohibit NHPTV from engaging in contracts or partnerships with other state agencies in support of state education, programming, business, infrastructure support, and public safety services.
2. HB113 would end years of the state's investment in a public resource, without assuming any responsibility for its impact and outcome.
3. HB113 places a blanket prohibition on an organization and is overly broad. Organizational expenditures are properly addressed in the budget process, not through targeted legislation such as HB 113.

OUR POSITION: New Hampshire Public Television and the University System of New Hampshire are strongly opposed to House Bill 113. Enactment of this bill would have grave, far-reaching consequences on NHPTV's ability to operate and will impact Granite State citizens of all ages who use and rely on NHPTV's unique programs and services, including education, technology and local content. NHPTV recognizes there is a serious shortfall in the state budget that must be addressed. However, there is a significant distinction between a funding cut through the state's appropriations process and eliminating NHPTV's funding entirely.

NHPTV USES STATE FUNDS FOR:

- NHPTV's essential on-air, online and on-the-ground education services and community engagement initiatives that reach thousands of citizens throughout the Granite State every year;
- NHPTV's state-of-the-art communications network, which is an integral part of NH's public safety and first responder infrastructure; and
- NHPTV's award-winning locally focused and produced television programs and PBS programs. More than 1 million people watch NHPTV each month, including 90,000 children per week.

WHO WE ARE: NHPTV, New Hampshire's only locally owned and operated statewide television network, reaches 98% of the state. NHPTV's broadcast programs are available free to everyone via over-the-air broadcast, not just through paid cable and satellite companies.

For more than 50 years, NHPTV has provided award-winning, locally focused and produced television programs, as well as PBS and independently produced programs that engage, educate and enrich lives. We are a trusted source for programs and content on our two channels, NHPTV PRIME and NHPTV EXPLORE, and our website.

BEYOND TV: EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. NHPTV offers broad, specialized educational, community and technology services to individuals, organizations, and state and local government agencies. NHPTV is a statewide education network that provides foundations in learning that last a lifetime. Our educational resources and workshops follow state curriculum standards and are used by educators to teach

did you know?

pre-K through grade 12 students. We partner with organizations on topics such as childhood obesity, bullying, math and science literacy, the environment, and aging. **The state's investment makes all this possible.**

BEYOND TV: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. As part of our public service mission, NHPTV has built a state-of-the-art communications network that is an integral part of New Hampshire's state and local public safety infrastructure. It was built by leveraging state funds to secure federal grants. NHPTV's statewide digital datastream is being implemented this year, and will be used by state and local police, firefighters and first responders to relay critical information during emergencies and other situations. Numerous public safety agencies, towns, municipalities and hospitals use NHPTV's towers to transmit information.

A 21st CENTURY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE. The University System of New Hampshire holds NHPTV's broadcast license. Our many partnerships with USNH's institutions of higher learning allow us to extend the value of their programs and services and provide New Hampshire with a 21st century educational resource. We support the System's mission through our programs and follow the lead of the Board of Trustees on budget and content.

NHPTV BY THE NUMBERS

- **NHPTV broadcasts two channels:** NHPTV PRIME (available in SD and HD) and NHPTV EXPLORE (available in SD). Both are available free via broadcast and generally through regional cable franchises.
- **NHPTV PRIME** serves 1 million viewers per month and 90,000 children per week (TracMedia). **NHPTV EXPLORE** is our lifelong learning channel.
- **Licensed** to the University System of New Hampshire in 1959, NHPTV has operated for more than 50 years.
- NHPTV FY10 budget (see graphic, right): \$8.8 million
- Cost for NHPTV services to state taxpayers: approx. \$2.05 per NH citizen
- **Bipartisan support for PBS:** A national survey undertaken by the bipartisan polling firms of Hart Research and American Viewpoint (2/2011) indicates overwhelming public opposition (69% to 27%) to proposals to eliminate government funding of public broadcasting, with voters across the political spectrum opposed to such a cut, including 83% of Democrats, 69% of Independents, and 56% of Republicans. More than two-thirds (68%) of voters say Congressional budget cutters should "find other places in budget to save money."

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