



**Broadcast  
Educational  
Media  
Commission**

**Broadcast Educational Media Commission  
Sunset Review Committee  
Testimony of BEMC Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips  
December 7, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Geoffrey A. Phillips, and I am the Executive Director of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

I am pleased to testify before you today in support of Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

Broadcast Educational Media Commission's (BEMC) focus is to advance education and accelerate the learning of the citizens of this state through public educational broadcasting services.

BEMC traces its roots to 1961 action of the legislature to create Ohio Educational Television Network Commission (OET) which became Ohio Educational Broadcasting Network Commission (OEB) in 1980 prior to becoming Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission in 1985 (OET) and then e-Tech Ohio and in 2013 BEMC.

Through the five names and the 54 years of serving Ohioans, the consistent thread has been Public Broadcasting. Ohio claims the first Public Television license – WCET in Cincinnati in 1954 – leading to a legislative study creating OET to develop access to Public Broadcasting for all Ohioans.

Today's BEMC commission provides leadership and support in extending the knowledge of the citizens of this state by promoting access to and use of educational broadcasting services, including educational television and radio and radio reading services.

In addition, the commission also administers programs to provide financial and other assistance to educational television and radio and radio reading services.

To advance its mission, the Commission is in the midst of a nearly \$3 Million Capital Modernization Project which will go live early in calendar year 2016 allowing for the

central casting of all of Ohio's Public Television from BEMC's corporate headquarters just north of downtown Columbus.

The commission is a body corporate and politic, an agency of the state performing essential governmental functions of the state.

BEMC's governing board includes 11 Ohio residents who are voting members along with 4 legislative non-voting members. Among the 11 are the Ohio Superintendent of Education and the Chancellor of Higher Education. Each of the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint three members to complete the 11 member governing group.

Today BEMC supports:

**Twelve (12) Public Television stations (under the Alliance leadership of Ohio Educational Television Stations):**

- WBGU in Bowling Green
- WCET in Cincinnati
- WGTE in Toledo
- WNEO in Kent, which also operated WEAO in Youngstown
- WOSU in Columbus, which also operates WOPB in Portsmouth
- WOUB in Athens, which also operates WOUC in Cambridge
- WPTD (ThinkTV) in Dayton, which also operates WOMU in Oxford
- WVIZ in Cleveland under the corporate name of ideastream

**Fifteen (15) Primary Public Radio stations (under the Alliance leadership of Ohio Public Radio):**

- WCBE-FM in Columbus
- WCPN-FM in Cleveland
- WCLV-FM in Cleveland
- WCSU-FM in Wilberforce
- WDPR-FM in Dayton
- WGTE-FM in Toledo
- WGUC-FM in Cincinnati
- WVXU-FM in Cincinnati
- WKSU-FM in Kent
- WOSA-FM in Columbus

- WOSU-FM in Columbus
- WOUB-AM in Athens
- WOUB-FM in Athens
- WYSO-FM in Yellow Springs
- WYSU-FM in Youngstown

**Seventeen (17) Secondary Public Radio Stations (under the Alliance leadership of OPR):**

- WDPG-FM in Greenville
- WGLE-FM in Lima
- WGBE-FM in Bryan
- WGDE-FM in Defiance
- WMUB in Oxford
- WKRW-FM in Wooster
- WKRJ-FM in Dover / New Philadelphia
- WKSV-FM in Thompson
- WNRK-FM in Norwalk
- WOSV-FM in Mansfield
- WOSB-FM in Marion
- WOSP-FM in Portsmouth
- WOSE-FM in Coshocton
- WOUC-FM in Cambridge
- WOUH-FM in Chillicothe
- WOUL-FM in Ironton
- WOUZ-FM in Zanesville

**Three (3) Translators for Public Radio Stations (under the Alliance leadership of OPR):**

- Ashland Translator (for WKSU from Kent)
- Coshocton Translator (for WOSU from Columbus)
- Ashtabula Translator (for WYSU from Youngstown)

**Six (6) Radio Reading Services (under the Alliance leadership of Ohio Radio Reading Services):**

- CRRS in Cleveland

- GESMV/WORDS in Dayton
- VOICEcorps in Columbus
- WCRS in Akron
- WRRS in Cincinnati
- YRRS in Youngstown

### **Two Media Sharing Entities:**

Ohio Government Telecommunications – or more commonly known as The Ohio Channel -- and the Statehouse News Bureau reside in the Ohio Revised Code under the domain of BEMC. Via a Memorandum of Understanding, Public TV station ideastream in Cleveland is the managing and fiscal agent for OGT and SNB.

### **Closing insights:**

In addition to a leading role in Public Broadcasting for Public TV, Public Radio and Radio Reading Services, BEMC connects Ohio K-12 as well as High Education classrooms for video conferencing of academic classes.

BEMC's headquarters are in the Richard B. Hull Building at 2470 North Star Road.

Chairman Brown and members of the Committee, BEMC continues to provide value and benefit to all Ohioans through advancing education and accelerating the learning of the citizens of this state through public educational broadcasting services and for this reason we recommend its reauthorization.

If there is any adjustment for the Sunset Committee to consider, perhaps asking the Legislative Service Commission to change the title of ORC 3353 to Broadcast Educational Media Commission from our former name "E Tech Ohio Commission" is in order.

I thank you for your time this afternoon as it has been my pleasure to testify before you in support of Broadcast Educational Media Commission. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding BEMC.