



March 4, 2009

The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
The Honorable Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chair
Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. 6604 – An Act Concerning Public Access Television Channels
H.B. 6608 – An Act Concerning Consumer Protection in Telecommunications
Companies

Dear Senator Fonfara & Representative Nardello:

The Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce would like to go on record as opposed to House Bills No's 6604 and 6608.

In 2007 the legislature and governor leveled the playing field and brought competition to Connecticut's video services market. The cable monopoly ended, new video service providers entered the Connecticut market. Consumers finally had a choice, and soon innovation, better service and competitive pricing followed.

AT&T invested \$336 million to bring video and enhanced broadband to the state while other new providers invested in their networks as well. This type of competition – not government regulation – is what has benefited consumers and Connecticut's economy. Unfortunately, if passed HB 6604 would discourage further investment by placing onerous and unneeded regulations on video providers.

HB 6608 goes even further by imposing costly service requirements on just few providers. As DPUC regulated companies, AT&T, Verizon & Cox would be held to these new standards or metrics, while their competitors and non-DPUC regulated providers like Cablevision, Comcast and Charter, would not.

So much for keeping the playing field level.

Heavy regulations, such as those found in House Bills No's 6604 and 6608, will not benefit consumers. Healthy competition that brings about greater choice and innovation will.

Sincerely,

Stephen A.
Bull

Stephen A. Bull
President