



Danbury Chamber of Commerce
Testimony

Esteemed members of the Committee on Energy and Technology:

I ask you to consider the impacts of Raised Bill 1024 on Connecticut's economy. This bill, "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws," follows in the footsteps of other states that have decided to update outdated and unnecessary regulation in favor of a more robust economy, more dynamic job growth and a more vibrant business sector.

As a representative of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, I am here to represent the business interests of Northern Fairfield County. Since 1936, our Chamber has been the region's business advocate, providing leadership for the area's business interests. We represent approximately 1,000 members, encompassing a workforce of over 107,333 employees.

We were troubled by earlier reports this year that cited Connecticut Labor Department's comparison of our state's current economic condition to that of 1990. Fewer than 1,000 jobs were added in the past 20 years. While the past is certainly unsettling, Connecticut's projected future is even more so: our state's job growth forecast is less than one percent over the next five years – the lowest in the nation. This stagnation is a danger to Connecticut's future. Without a significant adjustment, Connecticut is headed down a slippery slope of higher unemployment and decreased economic growth.

Connecticut must take action now to prevent this grim forecast from becoming a reality. As President Obama has emphasized, outdated, overly burdensome regulations delay job growth and have a dampening effect on innovation. Connecticut has the opportunity now to update the way we approach business in our state; updating regulations now mean a friendlier business environment for the future, making us an attractive place for business investment and company relocation.

This bill offers a chance to bring our business and regulatory environment into the modern era – one that emphasizes economic growth, job creation, business investment and a more prosperous future for our great state. Please join us in investing in Connecticut's future by supporting Senate Bill 1024.