



Waterbury Regional Chamber  
*driving business to business*

**Testimony of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce in support of SB 1024:  
An Act Concerning Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws**

Technology has rapidly evolved over the last several years. People are reading up-to-the-minute news on their smartphones, checking the weather on their laptops before even considering stepping outside, paying bills online, and checking their stock options from their new tablet on-the-go.

In Connecticut, our telecommunications laws do not consider nor do they address these changes which have become a way of life for consumers and businesses in our state.

Our current telecommunications policies are about traditional landlines and consumers, despite the fact that today, most of our phones are no longer connected to the wall. We are a mobile society that thrives on having information at our fingertips. Smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other broadband-enabled technologies are part of our daily routine and have become a cornerstone of modern business.

As a result of increased access to mobile and broadband technologies, businesses are popping up in non-traditional locations, companies are expanding their reach and people have to ability to work or go to school from home.

The problem is that Connecticut's outdated laws are hindering investment in broadband and the technologies on which so many of us have come to rely. High-speed Internet is no longer a luxury – it's the key to doing business, and our laws need to promote accessibility and growth of this vital technology.

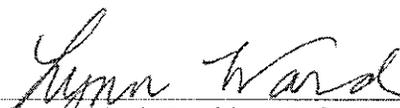
Regardless of the sector or industry, companies rely on broadband to carry out their daily activities. Hospitals rely on high-speed Internet to quickly transfer medical records, students access information online for research and study, and the telecommuter depends on broadband for his job.

This is the new economy, the way of the future, and Connecticut must acknowledge things have changed, or we run the risk of falling behind. The current measure is forcing providers to invest in technologies of yesterday rather than the technologies of tomorrow, which could lead to consequences for our state's economy.

We cannot afford to remain stuck in the past – we are discouraging potential infrastructure investments and putting our companies at a competitive disadvantage. This should not be taken lightly.

I urge you pass Raised Bill 1024 to update Connecticut's telecommunications laws to reflect the consumer and business demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and allow Connecticut to remain competitive. Encouraging investment in technologies like broadband will expand the horizons of businesses in Connecticut and in turn stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Lynn Ward, President & CEO