

JOBS FOR CONNECTICUT NOW

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Testimony of Paul Moran, Jobs for Connecticut Now
In support of SB 1024 An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws

Energy & Technology Committee

Chairman Fonfara Chairwoman Nardello

My name is Paul Moran, Executive Director of Jobs for New England Now.

I am here today to testify in favor of SB 1024, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws

Over the last two decades, the state of Connecticut has had 0% job growth. According to a report in the New Haven Register earlier this month, the state's annual employment is expected to grow by less than 1% over the next five years...the worst rate of any state in the nation.

There have been several factors that have had a negative impact on the state's job growth. One major impediment to economic and job growth is the state's excessive, often redundant and lengthy regulatory process; a process that affects every business, not just the telecommunications industry.

President Obama recently said, "We must make sure we avoid excessive, inconsistent and redundant regulation" encourage the elimination of "rules that stifle job creation and make our companies less competitive." We couldn't agree more with the President.

The bill before you today, SB 1024 will do what the President is encouraging.

The telecommunications industry is critical to every business in this state. Consumers and businesses alike are dependent on fast, reliable and economic telecommunications services every day. This bill will eliminate outdated regulations that have not kept pace with the ever changing telecommunications world.

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Specifically, the bill will:

Eliminate tariffs lowering the cost of services to consumers and freeing up cash that can be used to improve networks and hire new employees

Eliminate duplication in paper filings before the DPUC. Companies would file electronically. There is no need for dual filings. It is wasteful and burdensome to both DPUC and the companies.

Eliminate the need to audit telephone companies individually. The company is already audited annually in accordance with federal law. The DPUC may request any additional information regarding operations if necessary.

Passage of the Telecommunications Modernization Act will have no negative economic impact on consumers nor will it result in a loss of revenue to the state.

Governor Malloy has declared Connecticut open for business. We believe that his plan to streamline the state bureaucracy is a huge step forward. Now, those regulations being administered by the new bureaucracy need to be reformed and modernized to continue to keep Connecticut open.

Other states are in the process of revamping and modernizing their regulatory frameworks. Those states realize that such reform is necessary to encourage economic and job growth, Connecticut needs to do the same. This bill is a small but important step in that reform process.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and I ask that you support SB 1024, the Telecommunications Modernization Act.