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**Testimony of the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce in
support of SB-1024: An Act Concerning Modernizing the State's
Telecommunications Laws – 02/23/2011**

In a time when our state's unemployment rate exceeds 9 percent, Connecticut needs to focus on policies that encourage investment in new and emerging technologies that will support the private sector creation of high-skilled, high-wage jobs.

Broadband is one of the driving forces of Connecticut's economy and a key factor for creating these types of jobs. But, outdated public policies currently in place have the potential to cripple the expansion of high-speed Internet infrastructure, limit consumer choice and hold back Connecticut's companies. We need to update these laws.

I write today to encourage you pass Raised Bill 1024, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws, to spur investment in broadband and keep our state moving in the right direction. This is important as every business and consumer needs access to high-speed Internet for communication, work, education and health care.

The current telecom legislation doesn't consider all the changes in technology that have occurred since the time it was initially written and is rife with burdensome and redundant regulations.

Removing outdated regulations will support rapid advances in both technology and customer needs. This is critical to nurturing new and emerging companies that are creating jobs and delivering innovative products and services to Connecticut employers and residents.

If our state wants to establish a pro-jobs agenda this legislation must be considered.

According to a study by Connected Nation – increases in broadband access in Connecticut could result in a total economic impact of around \$1.9 billion. In addition the state could experience a direct economic impact of more than \$1 billion dollars and could create or retain nearly 30,000 jobs.

With all of this potential, the updating of Connecticut's laws is essential – especially when you consider that every industry and company in our state also relies heavily on broadband to increase efficiency and remain competitive not only with our nearby and neighboring states, but with countries across the globe.

Our state is behind the times – so many other states have recognized the need to update a policy that is so critical to job creation and the economy.

For some Connecticut residents and businesses, this is the difference between growth and isolation. We must pass SB-1024 to update the telecommunications act this year to spur investment in this critical infrastructure that will support the growth of companies across Connecticut and create jobs for state residents.

Sincerely,

Séan W. Moore, President

Leading and Promoting Business and Community Since 1896

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