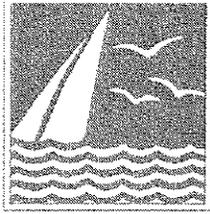


BRANFORD



CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

Hello, my name is Ed Lazarus. On behalf of the Branford Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to you today to express our support for the Telecom Modernization Act – a fundamental piece of economic development legislation that will attract business investment and job growth.

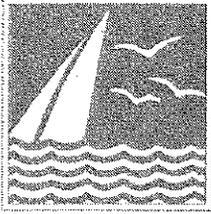
With a base of 350 members, we are committed to securing and enhancing the economic vitality of the Branford area. Unfortunately though, our entire state continues to struggle under the pressures of the financial crisis. We are experiencing zero percent job growth and our annual employment is expected to grow at a disheartening rate of less than 1 percent over the next five years.

One way to kick start economic growth and innovation is by reducing the redundancies and regulations that cripple our businesses. By modernizing its telecommunications standards, Connecticut will be breathing fresh air into the spirit of competitiveness, and implementing rules that reflect today's economic and technological realities.

I ask you to consider the following:

1. At a time when the majority of business is conducted electronically, why should the Department of Public Utility Control mandate that all filings also be submitted in paper form? This practice wastes time and resources and should therefore be eliminated as a requirement for telecom businesses.
2. If a company is subject to various federal audits, where is the need for a separate state audit? Filing a pro-forma audit increases the costs of doing business in Connecticut and it does not provide the DPUC with any additional information. So long as the state preserves the right to request financial information, eliminating a mandatory and separate state audit would mean telecom firms could put their resources to better use.
3. When a company communicates its services and rates through contracts, why is it important to also maintain and update a tariff database? General agreements for services place an added administrative weight on companies; they detract time and resources; they are less accessible to customers. Eliminating tariffs will free up resources that can be used to increase broadband and wireless investments, and hire new employees.
4. Why do we need price floors when they do not fulfill their intended purpose, and antitrust laws already add protection for the competitive process? Originally, imputation constraints were implemented to prevent predatory pricing; however, it is clear today that they restrict competition and cause inefficiencies. Eliminating price floors would prevent businesses from missing opportunities and wasting resources.

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5. In a robust, competitive marketplace, why do regulators dictate what products and services a company is allowed to discontinue? In the communications industry, it is critical that telecom firms have the flexibility to remove outdated services. Customers and competition, not regulatory approval, should dictate business considerations. Eliminating the requirement that some firms must request approval from the DPUC to stop offering a service would foster a competitive environment more suited to the telecommunications industry.

In each of these circumstances, a modernized telecommunications act would eliminate redundant requirements. Additional layers of communication and duplicative processes divert attention, time and resources away from tackling the most pressing business challenges.

Today, the Energy and Technology Committee of the General Assembly has the opportunity to help make Connecticut a more competitive place to do business. Doing away with burdensome regulations without placing undue risk onto the customer is a cost-effective and simple way to attract business investments and create the job growth Connecticut so desperately needs.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Zogor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.