



**Testimony of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce  
in support of SB 1024:  
An Act Concerning Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws**

The Chambers of Commerce of Central Connecticut write in support of Raised Bill 1024, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws.

On top of an extremely challenging economy, last month, the Hartford Business Journal reported Connecticut's annual employment is expected to grow by less than 1 percent over the next five years. This is the worst growth rate of any state in the country.

Connecticut needs to act fast to spur private sector investment and create badly needed jobs for state residents. Updating the Telecommunications Act this year is an effective way for the General Assembly to foster economic recovery with no cost to taxpayers.

Connecticut's telecommunications policies do not reflect today's modern landscape. Under the current measure, service providers are forced to invest in older technologies when more consumers and businesses are turning to new, broadband-enabled technologies including mobile wireless and Voice over IP.

Other states have taken crucial steps to modernize their telecommunications policies to better reflect the way consumers and businesses are communicating today, and they have seen job creation and investment follow. If we choose to modernize our laws, Connecticut could experience the same, positive results. But it shouldn't be a matter of choice – these critical updates are a necessity to state businesses.

As the world becomes more globally competitive, companies in Connecticut depend on reliable access to high-speed Internet. In fact, there are many web-based businesses here that couldn't even exist without broadband.

These companies are creating jobs for state residents, and as they grow, they will continue to hire not only technical engineers and software developers but administrators, sales representatives and marketing staff to support this growth.

We must invest in our state's broadband infrastructure to keep these companies – and jobs – here in Connecticut.

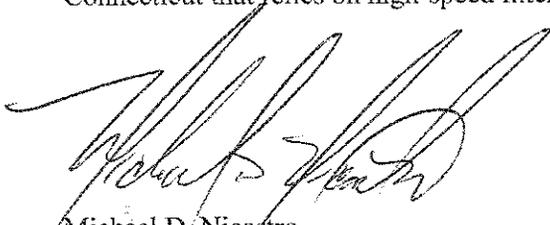
In addition, it's not just technology companies that are affected by telecommunications and increased broadband penetration – IT departments in every company and every industry are growing. Traditional businesses rely on broadband to reach new customers, communicate via e-mail and manage files online.

Central Connecticut  
Chambers of Commerce

one region. one voice.

We need to send a clear signal that not only is Connecticut open for business, but we also have the technology infrastructure to support companies in the new, digital economy. We don't have to have the worst growth rate of any state in the country.

I encourage you to pass 1024 to modernize our state's telecommunications laws and support existing and emerging technology companies, as well as every business in Connecticut that relies on high-speed Internet.



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