



**STATEMENT REGARDING**  
**Senate Bill 1024: AA *Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws***  
**Energy & Technology Committee**  
**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and Hartford's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and municipalities. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the modernization of Connecticut's state telecommunications laws, as such modernization will strengthen this Region's ability to retain and grow jobs and attract the capital investment needed to expand the economy.

This legislation attempts to rid Connecticut's regulatory system of excessive, inconsistent, and redundant regulations on businesses. Appropriately modernizing Connecticut's telecommunications laws could make it a model for modernization of other laws that affect a variety of vital industries in Connecticut, ultimately benefiting employers, consumers, and municipalities alike. Consistent with our mission to grow the region's workforce, the Alliance supports the concept of pro-growth legislation such as Senate Bill 1024.

Not only is this legislation in line with President Obama's recent calls to rid our country of rules that, quote, "stifle job creation and make our companies less competitive," but it also will have the beneficial effect of lowering the cost of compliance, freeing up capital that can be redirected toward investment and job creation. In the race to attract investment, other states, such as New Jersey, are already eliminating dated and onerous regulations, improving their business climate and increasing their growth potential.

Now is the time to ignite Connecticut's economy by facilitating the private sector growth needed to retain and create jobs by establishing a fiscal and regulatory environment more hospitable to employers. We urge the various parties in the industry that are working on this legislation to come together and advance legislation that improves our current telecom marketplace, grows our economy, and benefits consumers.

Thank you.