



*Mid-Fairfield County's Business Organization*

EDWARD J. MUSANTE, JR.  
PRESIDENT & CEO

February 24, 2011

Esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

We are pleased to support of Raised Senate Bill 1024. As a long-standing member of the mid-Fairfield County community, the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to supporting the needs of local business since 1889. We welcome the opportunity to provide the viewpoint of our diverse businesses on such crucial regulatory reform, and hope the Committee will join us in supporting telecom modernization and spurring Connecticut's economic recovery by taking this bill to the General Assembly.

As the rest of the nation struggles to recover from the worst financial crisis in recent history, Connecticut cannot be left behind. Although we are on the long road to recovery, our local businesses and communities have been further handicapped by dismal state trends. Analysts predict that our annual employment will grow less than one percent over the next five years, the worst growth rate of any state. Connecticut added fewer than 1,000 jobs to state payrolls in the last 20 years, while high energy costs and state government bureaucracy threaten to keep that number from increasing. In order to keep companies and additional investment flowing into our state, we must act aggressively to stimulate growth and provide the jobs our residents need.

The first step is clear: Connecticut should follow President Obama's example and update burdensome and outdated regulations. In a recent *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, President Obama stressed the importance of striking the right balance between protecting the public interest and supporting economic growth. He announced plans to conduct a government-wide review to eliminate "excessive, inconsistent and redundant regulation," and vowed to make sure that "nothing stands in [the] way" of the small businesses that drive growth and job creation for the whole nation.

President Obama is committed to fostering investment and innovation, and supporting the entrepreneurial spirit that has brought our nation so much success in the past and will ensure our prosperity and continued progress in the future. Our state lawmakers shouldn't prevent Connecticut from taking part in the additional investment and job creation that other states will enjoy. Senate Bill 1024 will modernize burdensome and outdated state regulations and lead to consumer and business benefits, without any loss of state revenue. The Greater Norwalk area needs this bill, and so does the rest of Connecticut.

Thank you for providing our business community the ability to make our views known on this important piece of legislation.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Musante, Jr.  
President