

East of the River Chambers of Commerce Association



East Hartford Chamber of Commerce
Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
North Central CT Chamber of Commerce
South Windsor Chamber of Commerce
Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Testimony on SB 447

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS

By

East of the River Chamber of Commerce Association

We are writing to you to express our support for Senate Bill 447, AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS on behalf of the East of the River Chambers of Commerce Association (ERCCA). The ERCCA represents more than 105,000 hard working Connecticut residents and more than 2,500 businesses.

As business advocates, we understand the frustration created by onerous and redundant tasks often created by government that often comes with the responsibility of running a business. The telecommunications industry is not immune. Overregulation of the telecommunications industry through outdated laws has led to unnecessary audits and mountains of repetitive paperwork. Many times administrative support and compliance officers are tasked with double the workload just to satisfy a single regulatory requirement.

However, if the Telecom Modernization Act is passed it will eliminate duplicate paper filings before the DPUC, which will save companies valuable time and increase productivity. Currently, the majority of companies submit their filings electronically but the antiquated law states that despite the e-filing, a company must still submit a paper form creating twice the work for both the company filing and the DPUC. Furthermore, it will reduce tariffs on telecom companies, freeing capital they can allocate toward updating networks and hiring new employees – direct job creation.

We respectfully urge the committee to support Connecticut's businesses and lend your support to the Telecom Modernization Act. Thank you for your time and consideration to this important matter.