



EDWARD J. MUSANTE, JR.
PRESIDENT & CEO

March 20, 2012

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
RE: SUPPORT OF SB 447—AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS**

We at the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce are responsible for the economic vitality of Norwalk, Darien, New Canaan, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. Our communities are currently struggling under the weight of outdated legislation that is enervating the telecom sector. Supporting the telecommunications modernization act and updating these laws to keep pace with technology will aid Connecticut's economy.

Senate Bill 447 will free capital for telecom companies to invest in network expansion and hiring. It will make the networks more efficient and reduce costs to citizens and businesses. Most importantly, it will create jobs and foster a more hospitable environment for investment in our state.

Statewide employment growth has been stagnant for the last twenty years and is only expected to grow by a meager one percent over the next five years. With an increasing number of citizens struggling to find work, there has never been a more important time to address the burdensome, overlapping and unnecessary regulatory policies have taken their toll on local businesses and contributed to flat-lining job growth.

In today's economic atmosphere, the Connecticut Telecom Modernization Act is just the sort of legislative action we need to modernize regulations, jump-start business growth and allow for the creation of new jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Edward J. Musante, Jr.