



Statement from the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce
On SB 447 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws"
For the
Energy and Technology Committee on March 20, 2012

On behalf of the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to you today to express my support for An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws. As we move forward in the 21st century, it's time Connecticut adopted the types of rules that boost job creation and spur economic investment. Modernizing Connecticut's telecommunication laws will do just that. President Obama hit the nail on the head when he said we must "make sure we avoid excessive, inconsistent and redundant regulation." It's time that we heed his call and eliminate of "rules that stifle job creation" and make American business less competitive.

As you know, East Hartford is a friendly, affordable community rich in history and steeped in tradition. We work hard and we enjoy the fruits of our labor. We are a diverse and extremely capable workforce that is committed to making East Hartford a very special place to live and work. But we need support from our legislators to stay competitive. Connecticut as a whole has not enjoyed the growth that other states have and I believe the telecommunications act will help generate the investments needed to create jobs and put our state back on track. Other states have already taken these steps and others have gone even farther to make their states as attractive as they can for investment in the next generation technology that's so important to our businesses.

If adopted, the modernization act will eliminate a series of redundant rules, freeing up the cash needed to hire new employees or invest in critical infrastructure projects. For instance, the act will halt the requirement that companies maintain and update a tariff database. Instead, telecommunications companies will make rates, terms, and conditions for services in another manner, such as a customer service guide. The tariff process is indeed redundant. It is supposed to be utilized by consumers but it really just covers the information sent to the consumer in an agreement and contract. It makes no sense to continue these kinds of burdensome rules.

There are many more examples of smart changes like the one I mentioned above. I hope you consider them carefully when reviewing this piece of legislation, and help thrust Connecticut to the top of every survey about doing business in America.

"ON THE SUNRISE SIDE"

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