

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Bob Duff, Co-Chair  
Joint Energy and Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2400  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

The Honorable Lonnie Reed, Co-Chair  
Joint Energy and Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4026  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**RE: Support for HB 6401**

Dear Co-Chairman Duff and Co-Chairwoman Reed:

TechAmerica appreciates the opportunity to express our support for HB 6401, legislation which would exempt interconnected voice over internet protocol services (VoIP) from regulation by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). HB 6401 maintains the status quo regarding other applicable laws, and specifies that the legislation would not affect, mandate, or prohibit the assessment of taxes, nondiscriminatory 911 fees, universal service fund fees, telecommunication relay service fees, public utility regulatory fees or other fees of general applicability.

In addition, TechAmerica recommends that the bill be amended to include Internet Protocol-enabled services among those services exempt from regulation by the state. This will ensure that consumers continue to benefit from innovative technologies such as instant messaging, streaming video and video calling.

HB 6401 is important because it would create a predictable and consistent policy framework that would foster VoIP innovation. Numerous other states have recognized the importance of this and have already exempted VoIP services from state regulation. VoIP brings increased efficiency, reliability and functionality to voice communications.

The Internet's use of computer processing allows for decreased use of transmission facilities, and automatic rerouting around malfunctioning routers or damaged lines without relying on a separate telephone signaling network. Since the cost of computer processing is decreasing and the demand for communications bandwidth is increasing, IP networks offer a more economical and robust means for providing communication connections than the traditional networks.

**TechAmerica Comment Letter**

HB 6401 – An Act Concerning Video and Cable Providers

February 21, 2013

Page | 2

Adopting this legislation would also help rural consumers in rural Connecticut to benefit from voice competition, rural telecommunications companies to extend broadband more affordably, remote businesses to transform the way they do business, rural communities to connect to a new world of remote job opportunities, and rural economies to become an engine for higher paying information age jobs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 682-4448 or [kevin.callahan@techamerica.org](mailto:kevin.callahan@techamerica.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Callahan" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Callahan  
Director, State Government Affairs  
TechAmerica