



Testimony of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce regarding:

**Support of Raised Bill No. 6402: An Act Modernizing the State's
Telecommunications Laws – 02/21/2013**

The regulatory environment, as it exists today for telecommunications, reflects the way things used to be. As such our current laws have yet to adapt to all the changes that have characterized the landscape of the telecommunication market in recent years. As they now stand, these laws unfairly penalize legacy service providers and give newer entrants to the marketplace an unfair advantage. Government is inadvertently picking winners and losers and as a result consumers of both residential and business services are not getting an accurate picture by which to make an educated decision when choosing a provider.

With this in mind we are pleased to see Raised Bill 6402, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws. One of the most encouraging elements of Raised Bill No. 6402 is found in Section 2, where the goals of the state are delineated. These measures, if allowed to become law and followed, provide an important economic development roadmap for the state to follow regarding this crucial industry.

Economic development is more critical now than ever. In this precarious economy, our state needs to attract new businesses with advanced, highly-skilled jobs that provide solid wages to bolster the middle class. At the same time we must also retain businesses that are seeking to expand and give them a reason to expand in Connecticut rather than look somewhere else. The Legislature can accomplish this by updating laws that eliminate burdensome, duplicative regulations and provide companies with an incentive to invest in the infrastructure that all consumers demand. Other states have already taken this kind of pro-active stance and the results are very favorable.

Businesses throughout central Connecticut, whether heavy industry, light manufacturing or a service company, all have a significant reliance on broadband which allows them to become a more efficient and competitive player in the marketplace. A marketplace no longer simply defined as just our neighboring states, but a global arena where competition is fierce. Updating our laws for this industry will have a significant impact for the State, our businesses and for consumers. I urge you to pass Raised Bill No. 6402 so we may reap the benefits of fair competition.

Michael D. Nicastro
President & CEO
200 Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010