



CITY OF STAMFORD
Office of Economic Development
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Statement before the Energy & Technology Committee

RE: HB 6402: An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunication Laws

February 21, 2013

In Stamford, we seek to create a city of balanced economic growth with a stable tax base and a high quality of life for all members of our diverse population. Integral to this effort is retaining Stamford's flourishing corporate base and attracting new businesses to Stamford.

The Office of Economic Development works closely with companies to address their short and long-term business needs, and strengthen their overall competitiveness in the global marketplace. Key to their success—as well as the city's – is a strong infrastructure. In the past, access to basic utilities as well as to highways and mass transit would have been enough. No more. The need for advanced broadband networks is critical for Stamford to compete with other 21st century business centers. For this reason, I support HB 6402, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Networks.

In recent years, Stamford has experienced impressive economic growth, establishing itself as the undisputed economic engine of the State of Connecticut, anchored by hedge funds and financial services firms whose global transactions depend on broadband.

The most recent growth has been the network of web and software designers, engineers, graphic artists, start-up founders, and financial supporters which has created a strong cyber-community right here in Stamford. From established companies to entrepreneurs, the smartest and most

innovative people driving the Digital Economy today are choosing Stamford. And all of them require – in fact, demand – the fastest and most advanced broadband.

Some of the key members of this community include:

The Digital Media Center at UConn which promotes trans-disciplinary instruction and research in digital media, animation, visualization, and technology;

NBC Sports, which has established its headquarters here, offers rich, exclusive content and whose website offers exclusive broadband programming of some of the most sought-after sporting events;

Indeed is the #1 job-search site worldwide, with over 80 million unique visitors and 1.5 billion job searches per month;

Kayak makes online travel better by allowing for the comparison of hundreds of travel sites at once in a fast and intuitive display;

Televerse Studios offers high definition post-production services to broadcasters and cable networks across multiple platforms and media;

The **Stamford Innovation Center** provides a shared-work environment where entrepreneurs and early-stage startups can gather, collaborate, and innovate;

Live Clips is an innovator and leader in the development and delivery of video content from live sporting events to any Internet-enabled device.

And what do all of these firms have in common? The need for the fastest, most sophisticated technology to help their businesses grow. For the city of Stamford, we need these networks to compete with New York, London and other business capitals. These businesses thrive because they are not burdened with outdated regulation; no company should be. For these reasons, we support HB 6402.

Laure C. Aubuchon
Director of Economic Development

LCA:kr