



Statement of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce  
On HB 6402 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws"  
For the  
Energy and Technology Committee on February 21, 2013

I am Sue O'Connor, President of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and I would like to present the views of the Chamber on HB 6402 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws".

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is a member focused organization that drives the greater Manchester business environment and the economic health and vitality of the region by supporting business growth, professional development and networking opportunities, while advocating for our membership.

It is the role of advocate that compels me to write to you today. One of the first things many companies look at today when deciding whether or not to locate a business in a specific location is access to high speed broadband. Whether a start-up or a well-established enterprise, business is conducted differently today and will continue to evolve at a rapid rate. Information and assets move over the information super highway now and create efficiencies by doing so. These types of transactions require state-of-the-art telecommunication infrastructure, which is constantly being improved upon, to reach that greater demand. Just sitting and resting on our laurels, assuming what we have is sufficient is not an option.

By enacting HB 6402 you are freeing telecommunication companies from the burden of unnecessary regulation and enabling them to use that capital in a much more useful and productive way to invest in the network that will help Connecticut compete for companies and jobs. Our businesses run the gamut of regulated industries, financial services, construction and trades and small businesses that are the backbone of our community. I hear the same complaints from all of these types of businesses: the cost of doing business in CT is tied to the effort and expense of dealing with overly burdensome regulatory red tape. Freeing up businesses from the burden of unnecessary regulation should be a top priority, especially in a state like CT that is lagging behind the other states in economic recovery.

This legislation will begin the regulatory reform process and serve as a catalyst for further reforms. While this legislation is limited to telecommunications, it affects all businesses in our State, by creating an environment to spur investment in these vital networks. In addition, many of the principles can be transferred to how the State handles the regulation of other industries.

By supporting this legislation, you will be creating an environment that will attract new investment dollars and recruit new talent. Many states have already gone down this path, Connecticut cannot afford to be left behind.

Sue O'Connor, President