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Testimony of the Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce regarding:

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

At the Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce: New Britain, Berlin we are staunch advocates of a free, open and competitive marketplace. The businesses of New Britain and Berlin benefit from the advances made in the telecommunications industry over the last two decades and eagerly anticipate more change. With state of the art broadband they can engage in an unprecedented exchange of ideas, and size is no longer a factor in being able to reach global markets. Wireless technology allows for anywhere and anytime connectivity. We have the ability to be "plugged-in" to the pulse of the market, 24/7.

Yet, it almost seems an anachronism that Connecticut has the laws that it does. Many other states have given the legacy telecommunications providers the relief from laws and regulations that no longer serve a purpose. In fact, they hamper that open market by not allowing all the players to engage on a level playing field.

The savings realized by the elimination of these burdensome mandates will surely be reinvested right back into their networks. This is what they do. This is their business. As a region and as a state we can only benefit from their forward looking enhancements. When they upgrade and expand their already robust infrastructure, jobs are created. Not only in the direct effect of spending millions of dollars on their technology projects, but in local job creation by hundreds of small businesses that use their services. We can grow and retain jobs that might otherwise be lost or not created at all.

We need to provide the incentive for the private sector to invest in broadband. We need to provide a means by which we keep our businesses from fleeing to other states that now seem more attractive than ours. We need to pass Raised Bill No. 6402 and allow this industry to compete freely and deliver the fastest, most reliable and least expensive communications possible. I urge you to help us with that goal.

William F. Millerick, President

Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce: New Britain, Berlin

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