

STATEMENT REGARDING

House Bill 6402: AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS

Energy and Technology Committee

February 21, 2013

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and municipalities. All of these investors share a common interest in the full economic and employment recovery of Connecticut, in a dynamic Capital City, and in the enhanced ability for the Region to compete for jobs, capital, and talent. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the modernization of Connecticut's state telecommunications laws, as such modernization will strengthen the region's ability to retain and grow jobs and attract the capital investment needed to expand the economy.

This legislation begins the process of ridding Connecticut's regulatory system of excessive, inconsistent, and redundant regulations on businesses. Appropriately modernizing Connecticut's telecommunications laws will start to put Connecticut back in line with other states who have already taken these steps and who compete with us for capital. Freeing up capital from compliance with outdated regulation can allow it to be redirected to investment in Next Generation technology that our businesses need to succeed. Connecticut businesses have created business plans for growth that include access to high speed, high capacity broadband, when that technology is not available, companies will locate elsewhere. Consistent with our mission to grow the region's workforce, the Alliance supports the concept of pro-growth legislation such as House Bill 6402.

In addition to freeing up capital, House Bill 6402 specifically eliminates an artificial price floor that has kept prices for telecommunications higher for businesses than necessary. Within a highly competitive market, like telecommunications, any interference with the market, like the imputation standard, prevents consumers from realizing the best price. Every penny counts for businesses these days.

It is critical that we make policy decisions that facilitate the private sector growth needed to retain and create jobs by establishing a fiscal and regulatory environment more hospitable to employers. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.