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**Testimony of the Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce regarding:
Support of Raised Bill No. 6402: An Act Modernizing the State's
Telecommunications Laws – 02/21/2013**

Once again the Connecticut State Legislature has the opportunity to make a meaningful change to the State's telecommunications laws. And once again, I write, asking for your support to accomplish this objective. Many other states have made the changes necessary to free local providers from the costly and burdensome regulations that simply do not make sense in today's highly competitive marketplace.

They have recognized the rapid evolution of technology over the past several years. They have recognized the dynamic changes that have taken place – in the vastly different ways we communicate now, and how many new businesses are providing that opportunity. It seems unfair that the legacy providers have been held back from participating more fully in an industry that has had a huge economic impact at multiple levels.

The telecommunications industry is an economic driver that can enable a growth in highly-skilled, good paying jobs and the State will reap the benefits. We must not risk falling behind in this endeavor. Small businesses, the backbone of job creation in the economy, have come to rely more and more on a robust, high-speed infrastructure. It allows businesses to run more efficiently and reach markets in a manner unimaginable just a decade ago.

The ability of a region like Northwest Connecticut to grow new jobs and retain those businesses that have been successful and seek to expand is critical to the way of life in this area. This can be accomplished by doing away with costly regulations, and freeing up capital that companies can then use to invest in their wireless and broadband networks. Job creation is the result. Such an action also sends a signal to businesses outside the state that we welcome their investment. It will not be misplaced.

The impact of telecommunications cuts across industry sectors. From education to healthcare to manufacturing to the service industry, this is the new economy. Please help to strengthen it in Connecticut and pass Raised Bill No. 6402. Please help us to advance the prosperity of the region's citizens and business communities.

Sincerely,



JoAnn M. Ryan
President & CEO