

**Testimony of
The Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut**

**Testimony before the General Assembly
Energy & Technology Committee
February 21, 2013**

Dear Committee Chairs and members of the committee:

My name is Frank Johnson and I am the President of the Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the Energy & Technology Committee in support of House Bill 6402 *AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS*.

The Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut's mission is to **preserve, protect and promote** manufacturing in the state of Connecticut.

For Connecticut to have a thriving manufacturing industry there are many assets that we need in place, not the least of which are a well-educated work force and strong state infrastructure.

If we want our children to receive the best education and grow up with the tools needed to succeed in business, including manufacturing, it's important that we provide them with the proper tools and technologies to bolster academic achievement. That begins with providing access to high-speed broadband Internet and next-generation high-tech networks.

In years past, strong state infrastructure meant sturdy and safe roads, dependable rail, deep ports and thriving airports.

Today, though, access to high-speed broadband networks capable of carrying immense amounts of information between manufacturers, suppliers and customers is quickly becoming the most important piece of the infrastructure puzzle.

That is why MAC is supporting House Bill 6402 *AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS*.

These past years have been extremely trying for not just manufacturing, but for most businesses in Connecticut. For the state to emerge healthier, we need to create an environment that retains and attracts businesses that will grow jobs.

Creating that environment begins with having the most modern, robust and competitive technological networks.

Unfortunately, Connecticut has not updated its telecom laws in nearly twenty years to properly reflect the manner in which businesses and consumers communicate today verses how they communicated in the mid-90's.

Other states have seen the benefits of modernizing their laws and are seeing new businesses and jobs come their way. These are businesses and jobs we'd all prefer come to Connecticut, instead.

The General Assembly has the opportunity this session to update its telecom rules and eliminate costly, outdated regulations that will free up capital to be invested in needed new technologies by passing House Bill 6402, *AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS*.

Thank you for your consideration.