



Your Community. Your Voice.

**Statement from the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce  
Regarding  
HB 6402 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws"  
Energy and Technology Committee  
February 21, 2013**

On behalf of the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to you today to express my support of House Bill 6402 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws". As the state continues to implement policies that attempt to help our state continue on its way toward economic recovery, it is important that included in those policies is reduction in overly burdensome regulations on businesses.

Increased investment in the state in the telecommunications infrastructure is paramount to our ability to compete with other states for much needed job growth. There are areas where Connecticut can compete and areas where we cannot. We will not be the cheap alternative, but we can be the state that offers a highly educated workforce and a telecommunications infrastructure second to none. Businesses these days, particularly the precision manufacturing, bioscience and aerospace companies that we are trying to attract, rely on the ability to move large pieces of information, in the form of data, through a high speed fiber optic line. Unless the backbone is in place, and expanded upon, businesses will locate elsewhere.

If adopted, the modernization act will eliminate a series of redundant rules, freeing up the cash needed to invest in critical infrastructure projects. For instance, the act will halt the requirement that companies maintain and update a tariff database. This is something the federal government eliminated over a decade ago on interstate toll calls. Customers receive this same information in their customer agreements and contracts. Keeping these type of burdensome and redundant regulations on the books makes no sense and adds no benefit to the consumer, only cost to the business. This legislation has several sections that fall into this same category, outdated rules that cost businesses money and don't help the consumer.

As you know, East Hartford is a friendly, affordable community, rich in history and steeped in tradition. We are a diverse and capable workforce that is committed to making East Hartford a great place to work and live. But we need your support in making Connecticut an attractive place to locate a business, HB 6402 is a step in that direction.

I urge you to support HB 6402 "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws" and let's make Connecticut competitive again.