



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

Statement of Lynn G. Ward, President and CEO of the Waterbury Regional Chamber to the Energy and Technology Committee on HB 6402, An Act Modernizing The State's Telecommunications Laws

February 21, 2013

The Greater Waterbury region has seen a great deal of change over the past few decades. Fortunately, we are encouraged about the future. The Chamber and City of Waterbury are actively marketing the region to businesses and residents alike. Local schools and colleges are striving to make sure the workforce is prepared for the jobs of the 21st century.

However, these efforts could be limited by the state's reliance on an outdated and burdensome regulatory regime. Connecticut's telecommunication laws simply have not kept up with the rapid changes within this crucial industry. In order for our state to send the message that it is truly open for business, we need to eliminate regulations that apply to only a few and provide encouragement to those businesses that will readily invest in and build a robust, high-technology infrastructure. More and more businesses and consumers alike are seeking out new broadband-enabled technologies that include wireless and Internet protocol applications. High-speed Internet capability is of paramount importance in the global competitive marketplace. We have many web-based businesses that would not even exist if it were not for broadband. The encouragement of more of these emerging employers can be achieved by passing House Bill 6402.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber spans two counties (New Haven and Litchfield) and serves 13 towns. We represent the collective interests of almost 1,000 members in matters of economic development and public policy. Businesses throughout our region are absolutely dependent on advanced technology. Please help us in this effort and pass HB 6402.

Sincerely,

Lynn G. Ward
President and CEO, Waterbury Regional Chamber