

**Testimony of Tom Swan, Executive Director, CT Citizen Action Group (CAG)**

**March 4, 2014**

**Before the Energy and Technology Committee**

**On HB 5413 and HB 5409**

Good Afternoon, Representative Reed, Senator Duff and other members of the Energy and Technology Committee; my name is Tom Swan and I am testifying on behalf of over 20,000 member families of CCAG: CT Citizen Action Group. I want to thank you for having the hearing today. I am here today to express our opinion that we believe HB 5413 AAC Telecommunications Service is unnecessary due to PURA's ability to undertake such a study without legislation and that if such a study was to be called for that it actually focus much more on the potential impact on customers, both businesses and individuals.

We would welcome a contested PURA docket to analyze our current laws regarding telecommunications, the strengths and weaknesses, and the advantages and disadvantages to the consumer of different telecommunications services being offered, and propose possible changes to CT statutes. Areas to study would include:

- Current business, technical, and economic activities being undertaken by telephone and other telecommunications service providers in Connecticut;
- The sufficiency of the facilities and instrumentalities furnished or provided by such companies;
- Analyze the adequacy, availability and affordability of these services among different demographic groups, as defined by population density, income, home ownership, race and ethnicity, age, disability, and other relevant criteria;
- The current condition of the landline telephone network;
- The impact of the different services on the universal service objectives required under the 1996 Telecommunications Act;
- The resiliency and functionality of the different types of network services in a natural disaster or other emergencies;
- The extent of the development of wireless and FTTP telecommunications services in locations throughout the state;
- The extent that non-landline services meet consumer requirements for reliable voice and data telecommunications service at affordable rates and its possible impact on public safety, and
- The sufficiency of the current regulatory system to protect the interests of consumers and whether current laws or regulations should be changed or amended to enhance or strengthen oversight and regulation over the entire telecommunications industry.

CCAG also would like to weigh in on HB 5409 AAC Hydraulic Fracking Waste. While we agree that any waste transported through CT should be labeled as hazardous waste we do not believe that 5409 adequately protects the residents of CT. CCAG strongly supports a comprehensive ban on fracking waste in CT as was proposed in SB 267 in the Environment Committee and view anything short of that is a disservice to our state.

Thank you for your consideration.