



Testimony of Paul Recanzone  
President OHivey  
Director Fiber.Community

*In Favor* of Proposed Bill:

**HB No. 7055 – AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT FIRST**

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

15 April 2015

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger, and distinguished members of the committee;

Thank you for understanding the importance of broadband development to economic vitality and quality of life in Connecticut.

OHivey and Fiber.Community believe communities can be greatly benefitted by public broadband development projects. We also believe the decision to risk public funds on a public broadband development project should rest in the hands of those citizens the decision affects. Connecticut law allows for special taxing districts for specific purposes that can bring about significant community benefits for their members. Currently, broadband development is not one of the allowed purposes.

In order to allow the creation of a special taxing district for the purpose of developing broadband, we support the phrase **“...to plan, lay out, acquire, construct, maintain, operate and regulate the use of a community broadband system,...”** added to Connecticut General Statute 7-326.

**Adding this language to allow special taxing districts for broadband development will:**

- Create a vehicle to advance municipal broadband development and the implementation of public “gig” networks.
- Ensure the decision to participate in a public broadband development venture rests in the hands of the affected citizens.



**Communities that elect to form a special taxing district to develop broadband will:**

- Better control public policy outcomes of broadband development.
- Be able to select “gig” network solutions and create environments of real broadband abundance.
- Be able to choose an “open” model allowing multiple service providers to compete across a common infrastructure.

To that end, we urge the legislature to pass HB 7055, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT FIRST

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Recanzone".

Paul Recanzone  
President, OHivey