



**Communications  
Workers of America**

**The Connecticut Union  
of  
Telephone Workers, Inc.**



**Local 1298**  
AFL-CIO

3055 Dixwell Avenue • Hamden, CT 06518 • (203) 288-5271 • Toll Free (800) 833-2889

Honorable Committees members

I am testifying today with my continued opposition of the establishment of an Office of Broadband Advocacy. The establishment of this office was raised in Committee Bill 572 but never made it through the legislative process. However, during the state's legislative budget sessions, this language of that Committee Bill was incorporated, verbatim, and passed in the budgetary Implementer Bill.

We have to ask ourselves:

Why are we taking on this financial responsibility at a time when we are attempting to balance the state's budget. It appears that this implementation is solely for the purpose of solving a problem that does not exist.

Why is the role of the Office Consumer Counsel changing from "watch dog" to the establishment of government agencies?

The Office of Broadband Advocacy released a report dated January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 that misrepresented the status of broadband in Connecticut by depicting a small sample of the lack of high-speed internet access availability.

Senator Duff conversely submitted a press release that paints a different picture of the status of internet speeds in Connecticut.

# Duff: Connecticut's Economy Boasts a Thriving Broadband Infrastructure and Continued Broadband Industry Investment

## FCC Report finds download speeds in Connecticut are #2 in the country

State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff (D-Norwalk) announced Tuesday that as Connecticut begins the 2016 Regular Session tomorrow, broadband continues to be a competitive strength and significant bright spot in its growing economy. Following up to a recent report that found connection speeds in Connecticut were among the fastest in the world, a report recently released by the FCC also found that Connecticut's download speeds were measured as the second fastest in the country.

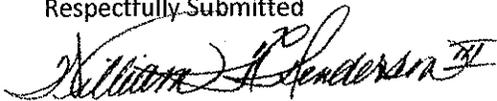
"As we begin 2016, the state of our competitive broadband advantage remains strong for our residents, businesses, and economy," said Sen. Duff. "Broadband is a natural asset for our state and something I look forward to promoting through policies that encourage continued private sector investment and job growth that further separate Connecticut from the pack in the global economy."

According to the FCC's 5th Annual "Measuring Broadband America Fixed Broadband Report," Connecticut had the second fastest average download speed in the country (based on aggregate performance of all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and technologies across all speed tiers in 2013 and 2014).

In addition to receiving consistent recognition in studies on the state's superior broadband strength in terms of speed and access, over the last three years, Connecticut has also become home to a thriving broadband industry that has consistently grown in-state jobs and, in some cases, even chosen to locate their corporate headquarters in Connecticut (Frontier in Norwalk and Charter in Stamford). And recently, Comcast, whose Western New England Regional Headquarters covering five states is located in Berlin, Connecticut, was recognized as a best place to work in the state by the Hartford Business Journal for the eighth time.

My opinion is that business should take care of business and the municipalities should take care of government. They should be separate and we can always anticipate problems when those lines are blurred. I am strongly against the current funding and the continuance of the Office of Broadband Advocacy.

Respectfully Submitted



William F Henderson III

President CWA 1298