

Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President Connecticut AFL-CIO  
before the Energy and Technology Committee  
March 10th, 2016

Senator Doyle and Representative Reed and members of Energy and Technology committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony on:

**SB 334 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY RELATED STATUTES.**

One of the changes which need to be made is a result of the budget implementer from last session. Language had been included to allow municipalities to “sell” their “gain” to anyone who wanted to provide service to that particular municipality. However, according to **Sec. 16-233 of the CT General Statutes titled “Use of gain by town, city, borough, fire district or Department of Transportation”**, each town, city, borough, fire district or the Department of Transportation shall have the right to occupy and use for any purpose, without payment therefor, one gain upon each public utility pole or in each underground communications duct system installed by a public service company within the limits of any such town, city, borough or district. The location or relocation of any such gain shall be prescribed by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. **Any such gain shall be reserved for use by the town, city, borough, fire district or the Department of Transportation.**

We believe the State of Connecticut should not look outside its borders, to hire, fund, and build a duplicate fiber network because we only need to be expanded and we most definitely should not be in competition with an existing Connecticut company, such as Frontier Communication, that is investing millions of dollars in the existing high-speed internet network.

Included in the implementer language was a redirection for the Office of Consumer Counsel to step away from advocacy on behalf of consumers and instead lobby for and promote the establishment of an office of broadband advocacy. This office would in reality be advocating for out of state entities that would displace Connecticut union workers.

As always, we thank you for holding this public hearing.