



Communications
Workers of America

The Connecticut Union
of
Telephone Workers, Inc.



Local 1298
AFL-CIO

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February 22, 2016

Co-Chairs – Government Administration and Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Cassano and Representative Jutila :

With the elimination of funding for the establishment of a Broadband Advocacy Office in the Governor's Midterm Budget Adjustments for year 2017, I would like "to clear the air" with the Committee regarding our efforts to stop the funding for it initially.

We firmly believe and support that all Connecticut residents should have access to high-speed internet but to compete globally for it on a level playing field. Back in 2006, the Communications Workers of America, Local 1298 provided information to our state's legislature in our *Speed Matters Program* on how to correctly and efficiently implement this service – by utilizing the already experienced, well-trained union employees. The 868,000 miles of fiber optics are already in place, thus insuring that all residents would be treated fairly and equitably. The pandering to an Australian-based to do this work, a company that never started nor completed a project of such vast magnitude, would be ridiculous. Why would we bring untrained vendors and contractors to a state that already has its own tax-paying residents who possess all of the necessary training and expertise.

Clearly our state does not need a duplicative broadband network. The establishment of a new network would be bad enough but the maintaining of it would be extremely burdensome to an already over-taxed state. We are delighted and proud that Governor Malloy has had the courage and foresight to eliminate the funding for the establishment of the Broadband Advocacy Office.

I have attached a report on Broadband shared on Senator Duff's website on Feb. 2 2016.

Very truly yours,

William F. Henderson III
President

C: Members of the CT Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 2, 2016

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.

The FCC report can be found online.