

Dear Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

I am pleased to provide this written testimony for S. B. No. 445 of the 2016 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BIOSCIENCE AND HEALTH DATA NETWORK COLLABORATIVE TASK FORCE

I laud the intent of this bill. A vibrant broadband network is the information superhighway critical to economic success today.

There are exciting options in Connecticut to leverage the existing investment in 100 Gig capacity CEN that is already present.

This, capacity, already exceeds the network infrastructure of many states.

Yet, there are barriers to effective use of this resource:

1. The process to connect individual businesses and homes is mired in regulatory restrictions that protect current cable providers.
2. The cost of such individual connectivity is prohibitively expensive, squelching innovation.
3. The bill really stacks the deck in terms of the status quo, particularly in constraints on membership and appointing authority.
4. Capital investment is needed to promote sites for big data storage and high performance computing to complement network capacity.

In summary, the scope is narrow. The imagination is lacking. Broader and deeper technical expertise is imperative for success.

I do applaud the intent, moving to effective implementation will, in my opinion, require adjustments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in this vital boost to Connecticut's economy.

Sincerely,

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P.S. I provide this testimony as a private citizen, but note that my expertise in this subject is based upon decades of IT experience. Currently, I am a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, as well as a Professor of Mathematics, at the University of Connecticut. I have had multiple federal grants for computing innovation, including founding a graphics company in California to support the film industry there. Over the last decade I have maintained an active research collaboration with senior scientists at IBM Research on protein folding and visual data analytics for high performance computing. Additionally, IBM research has generously funded my students and my research. Previous to UConn, I was a Senior Technical Staff member of a Fortune 500 IT company along the 128 sector outside Boston. There, I collaborated with leading universities to accelerate technology transfer. These experiences provide my perspective on establishing a vibrant IT infrastructure, as I have expressed, above.