

March 11, 2016

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Ranking Members and Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Bruce Carlson and I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council. I am here today to offer some comments on SB 331, An Act Establishing A High Speed Internet Service Pilot Program and would like to recommend a small modification based on these comments.

The Connecticut Technology Council (CTC) is an industry association representing the technology industry in Connecticut. Our members are from all of the technology sectors in Connecticut and range in size from a 1 person start up to some of the household names with over 5000 employees in Connecticut.

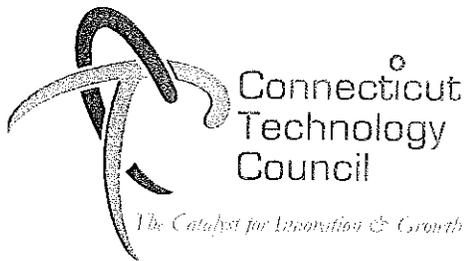
As the CTC developed its Public Policy Agenda last fall for this legislative session and beyond, our three major areas of concern and recommendation were Talent and Workforce, Focusing on Growing Businesses already in Connecticut, and IT Infrastructure.

As has been noted a number of times, Connecticut enjoys the status of being one of the most wired states in the country. We have our telecommunications and cable providers to thank for having made that investment. We also have one of the most robust fiber optic backbones in Connecticut with fiber "drops" in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities thanks to funding from the State and Federal government and the great work at the CT Education Network. However, though we are in the leadership position and the envy of others, we cannot remain static. Other states and countries are making major investments in their IT infrastructure as they see this investment as putting them at a competitive advantage.

The CTC believes that affordable, high speed broadband service is a critical element to the future of Connecticut economic development and job growth. The key in that sentence is affordable. While CT is well wired, the costs of connecting are prohibitive to many of the smaller and midsize companies that increasingly will need and depend on this service. I liken our current situation as having a high speed highway running through Connecticut, but not very many on ramps.

Who are these companies that need or will need the service? Almost any company that is engaged in data analytics whether in the life sciences or financial arena. Without an affordable high speed broadband connection we will have life science companies,

The Connecticut Technology Council
222 Pitkin Street, Suite 113 ♦ East Hartford, CT 06108
860-289-0878 ♦ 860-289-0326 Fax



March 11, 2016

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Ranking Members and Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Bruce Carlson and I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council. I am here today to offer some comments on SB 331, An Act Establishing A High Speed Internet Service Pilot Program and would like to recommend a small modification based on these comments.

The Connecticut Technology Council (CTC) is an industry association representing the technology industry in Connecticut. Our members are from all of the technology sectors in Connecticut and range in size from a 1 person start up to some of the household names with over 5000 employees in Connecticut.

As the CTC developed its Public Policy Agenda last fall for this legislative session and beyond, our three major areas of concern and recommendation were Talent and Workforce, Focusing on Growing Businesses already in Connecticut, and IT Infrastructure.

As has been noted a number of times, Connecticut enjoys the status of being one of the most wired states in the country. We have our telecommunications and cable providers to thank for having made that investment. We also have one of the most robust fiber optic backbones in Connecticut with fiber "drops" in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities thanks to funding from the State and Federal government and the great work at the CT Education Network. However, though we are in the leadership position and the envy of others, we cannot remain static. Other states and countries are making major investments in their IT infrastructure as they see this investment as putting them at a competitive advantage.

The CTC believes that affordable, high speed broadband service is a critical element to the future of Connecticut economic development and job growth. The key in that sentence is affordable. While CT is well wired, the costs of connecting are prohibitive to many of the smaller and midsize companies that increasingly will need and depend on this service. I liken our current situation as having a high speed highway running through Connecticut, but not very many on ramps.

Who are these companies that need or will need the service? Almost any company that is engaged in data analytics whether in the life sciences or financial arena. Without an affordable high speed broadband connection we will have life science companies,

The Connecticut Technology Council
222 Pitkin Street, Suite 113 • East Hartford, CT 06108
860-289-0878 • 860-289-0326 Fax