



Testimony of Eric Brown
Before the
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
February 19, 2019

The Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on:

SB-6, An Act Concerning Net Neutrality Principles and Internet Privacy

CBIA opposes this bill

Good morning. My name is Eric Brown and I serve as vice president for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents thousands of businesses, large and small, throughout the state of Connecticut with the majority of our members having fewer than 25 employees.

CBIA recognizes there is national discussion regarding the rapid and ever-evolving capabilities and practices within the telecommunications marketplace.

Fortunately, Connecticut is a huge beneficiary of the sustained growth in the telecommunication sector. Connecticut is proudly called “home” for some of the world’s largest and most innovative telecommunications companies, which have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Connecticut and employ tens of thousands Connecticut residents in good paying jobs .

Connecticut’s strong and growing role as a national leader in telecommunication investment and job creation is one of our strongest economic success stories in recent years. In our view, the proponents of this bill are not fully aware or don’t fully appreciate the potentially negative economic and job impacts of this bill on Connecticut.

Thoughtful consideration is being given to the issue of internet regulation at the federal level and Congressional action is likely later this year. Taking this aggressive and preemptive stand in Connecticut will not only create confusion for businesses and consumers alike, it will put our state at a competitive disadvantage when working to attract and retain businesses. Simply put, it sends the wrong message to employers, their customers and the skilled employees they need.

Further, CBIA is concerned this legislation will send a negative signal to our state’s telecommunications companies - possibly discouraging future investment in our state. CBIA urges interested state policymakers and other advocates to work with Connecticut’s Congressional Delegation as well as the telecommunications businesses in our state to propose sensible federal legislation that addresses net neutrality concerns on a national scale and creates a level playing field for all.

Only federal legislation can ensure that fair, effective and consistent rules are applied to the entire internet ecosystem. Well-intentioned but short-sighted state legislation such as SB-6, would put our state

and our telecommunication businesses at a competitive disadvantage and could potentially cost us jobs and our standing as a national leader in telecommunication technology and investment.

CBIA appreciates your consideration of our comments. We respectfully urge this committee to reject SB-6

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on SB-369 and for your consideration of our position.