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Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
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**SB 6 - AN ACT CONCERNING NET NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES AND INTERNET
PRIVACY.**

Good morning Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, Senator Formica, Representative Ferraro and members of the Energy and Technology Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB-6: An Act Concerning Net Neutrality Principles and Internet Privacy. As you know, in 2017 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) overturned protections for a free and open internet commonly known as net neutrality. This decision has yet to produce any of the promised windfalls of private sector telecommunications investment and threatens to hinder economic activity here in Connecticut by allowing telecom companies to slow connectivity, block content or extort fees from businesses and consumers in our state.

Any effort to create an unlevel playing field that punishes some residents and small businesses while giving corporations built-in advantages must be opposed. Last year, I proposed withholding state funding – including state contracts and economic development assistance – from any telecommunications company operating in Connecticut that fails to uphold net neutrality principles. While SB6 takes a different approach, I am heartened to see the issue receiving the consideration that is warranted.

Net neutrality supports the fundamental principles shared by Connecticut and its citizens: inclusion, fairness and opportunity. A free and open internet is a goal consistent with the shared values of our state.

I applaud the efforts of advocates and lawmakers to restore open internet protections, particularly Senator Duff. I remain ready to assist in these efforts in any way that may be helpful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.