

Testimony of Tom Wheeler
Hulmeville Borough
Council President

Members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of **House Bill 1608, the Telecommunications Market Competition Act.**

I am the President of the Hulmeville Borough Council. We believe that Hulmeville is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. It is the intention of the Mayor and Borough Council to provide professional, efficient, timely, and fiscally responsible services to our constituents in order to continue to support this quality of life.

However, another important element contributes to the vitality of our community – the availability of reliable, robust forms of communication. It's important for almost every facet of our lives from business to education. Fortunately, according to data compiled by the FCC's National Broadband Plan, Hulmeville residents can choose from three communications providers that offer wired broadband at speeds above the national average and two wireless providers that offer wireless broadband at speeds above the national coverage. These communications providers also offer more basic services but increasingly, consumers are opting out of basic telephone service and relying on newer technologies like cell phones or Internet-connection based applications – all of which are increasingly easier and better to use.

As a lifelong resident of Hulmeville, I have witnessed firsthand how technology has evolved in our small community just as it has across Pennsylvania. Our community has benefited from considerable private investment in and around our area that affords us the range of consumer choices and providers we enjoy today. Therefore, it is concerning to me that while technology has continued to evolve and reach many corners of our state; the state's regulatory regime has not.

I plan to reside in Hulmeville for the rest of my life. I want Hulmeville to provide our children all the opportunities we had growing up and then some. As such, I support efforts to reform outdated regulations that may stifle the types of investments and technology offerings that may be the key to our children's future, just as the Internet was to a generation not so long ago.

I hope you will join me in supporting House Bill 1608, because I believe it embodies practical reforms necessary to improve Pennsylvania's regulatory environment. It's clear to me that competition in Pennsylvania has led to more consumer choices. Now, we must ensure obsolete regulations do not hamper the progress we have seen in our communities.

Thank you.

Thomas Wheeler
Hulmeville Borough
Council President