

Chairman Godshall, Ranking Member Daley, members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, I write today to provide testimony in strong support of the Telecommunications Market Competition Legislation – HB 1608 – as it is being considered before you on November 21, 2013.

My name is Jessica Conner and I am the Assistant Director of the Pittsburgh Film Office. The Pittsburgh Film Office is a non-profit economic development agency promoting southwestern Pennsylvania to the film industry. Our primary function is to serve as an economic generator for the designated 10-county greater southwestern Pennsylvania region by attracting and supporting film, television and related media industry projects, and coordinating government and business offices in support of a production. On both the national and local levels, the Pittsburgh Film Office is a conduit for information ranging from location photographs and vendor and crew listings, to regional information in general.

Not surprising, we depend on a range of communications services to accomplish our objectives. Older, stationary, more antiquated communications tools like traditional phone service no longer meets our needs. Like so many other organizations, businesses, and consumers, we depend on high-speed broadband and wireless networks to conduct the bulk of our work. These newer technologies enable us to manage the bandwidth-intensive, high-quality video and imagery that is essential to the media industry as we collaborate with people from across the country.

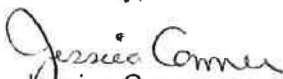
Technology has truly democratized the media industry, and by harnessing the variety of new software and services built on new communications networks, we are better positioned to promote southwestern Pennsylvania to a new generation of filmmakers, artists and entrepreneurs.

Therefore, just as time finally came to bring sound and color to other silver screen, we believe it's time to streamline Pennsylvania's regulations that have been untouched for decades. We support HB 1608 because it will ensure Pennsylvania's regulatory environment promotes the types of technologies we need for the future.

Therefore, just as time finally came to bring sound and color to the silver screen, we believe it is time to bring Pennsylvania's regulations in-line with the realities of our time. It is time to streamline archaic regulations that have gone untouched for decades. We support HB 1608, because it will ensure Pennsylvania's regulatory environment promotes the types of technologies Americans are embracing instead of narrowly focusing on the defunct services Americans are forgoing.

Please move this important legislation forward. And, thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,


Jessica Conner
Assistant Director