

Jane Hugendubler

From: Jane Hugendubler
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Robert Godshall
Cc: Amanda Rumsey; Michael Nerozzi
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of HB 1608

-----Original Message-----

From: Della Clark [<mailto:dclark@theenterprisecenter.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 6:17 AM
To: Jane Hugendubler
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1608

State Representative Robert Godshall,

My name is Della Clark and I am the President and CEO of The Enterprise Center. At The Enterprise Center, we utilize a forward-looking approach to help high potential minority entrepreneurs fulfill their dreams. We provide access to financing for small businesses so that they can get off the ground. Starting a business requires a lot of capital but, if invested correctly, pays off in the end. Much of this capital goes toward buying telecommunications technologies that are critical to every business, as well as to private consumers. We recognize the need for small businesses to have current technology because in the end, this is the most cost-effective way of keeping your operations relevant in a high-tech world.

Just as supporting investment strengthens our small businesses, an upgrade to the laws underpinning our telecommunications networks will serve our Pennsylvania communities well in the coming years. It is no longer sensible to keep in place the telecommunications laws that were created when only one provider offered service entirely through traditional copper lines.

In the past few decades, America has witnessed telecommunications technology progress at a remarkable rate. The American consumer has more options in terms of devices than ever before. And consumers are benefiting from greater competition for cellular and data plans that can support technologies like smart phones, VoIP, Skype, messaging applications, and wireless internet.

However, our laws lag far behind our innovators in the technology and telecommunications industries. At a time when Americans are increasingly abandoning landlines in favor of the aforementioned communications technologies, we should commit to updating our laws accordingly.

This requires increased investment in Pennsylvania's communications networks to support both present and future telecommunications technologies. We should encourage innovation by supporting the infrastructure upon which businesses and consumers depend. We should work to expand our broadband and wireless networks to strengthen the network in existence and to reach more Pennsylvanians.

In this age of increasing globalization, we cannot afford to let our state fall behind the technology curve. I hope that you make the sensible decision to support HB 1608 and invest in our state's future, thank you for your time.