

Jane Hugendubler

From: edavidgates@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Jane Hugendubler
Subject: Testimony supporting House Bill 1608

My name is Elmer Gates. I'm the Co-founder and current Lead Director of Embassy Bank headquartered in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. I support and urge the passage of the bill and here are my reasons.

I'm not a telecom expert but I am a substantial user of telecom and I realize that Pennsylvania's existing regulatory framework is outdated and sadly in need of reform. Current regulations were put in place with the technology that existed then and do not reflect the current communications infrastructure and its multitude of communications options for users.

My area of expertise is finance and when HB1608 is enacted into law it will modernize existing regulations, making the Commonwealth a more attractive place to do business. This will encourage more companies to invest here. The resulting competition will be great for users and investors alike

Today, robust communications networks are critical for companies doing business in Pennsylvania. With the ever increasing use of the internet, affordable and reliable communications networks have never been more important to all sectors of our economy, such as healthcare, financial services, manufacturing and education. These are particularly important to those businesses active in the global economy.

Current regulations are deterring growth and the accompanying capital investment in our state ! The passage of HB 1608 will demonstrate a commitment by the state that Pennsylvania is open for and supportive of business large and small !

So, in summary, communications companies are among the largest investors in Pennsylvania's economy and current regulations discourage investments! The enactment of HB 1608 will be a huge step in encouraging these companies to accelerate their investment in deploying higher speed, next generation networks for Pennsylvania. It will engender growth in jobs and will be a huge win for the users, businesses and ultimately to the Commonwealth. Please move with all deliberate speed to enact this needed legislation

Elmer D Gates Co-founder and Lead Director Embassy Bank