



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

Nov. 2, 2012

The Honorable Ken Horn
Chairman of the House Energy and Technology Committee
124 North Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

Chairman Horn and members of the House Energy and Technology Committee:

Congratulations on nearing the end of the 2011-12 legislative session, a session that has seen real evidence that Michigan's economy is turning a corner and heading in a direction that attracts jobs, investment and greater innovation to our state. Your leadership in this effort has been important and appreciated, as you and your colleagues from all over Michigan have made it a priority to pursue policies that make Michigan more competitive, reforming tax policy, balancing budgets and modernizing outdated laws and regulations to better adapt to our new economy.

It is on this last point that we share with you this letter and support for Senate Bill 1291 and Senate Bill 1292. Senate Bill 1291, sponsored by Senator Hildenbrand and passed by the Senate in September, modernizes Michigan's law governing providers of home and business security monitoring systems and services.

As you are very aware, the wireless Internet allows new and innovative services for consumers in Michigan every single day. Today, across the country, businesses are rolling out new products that not only allow people to connect with each other, but allow people to use the wireless Internet to connect and control their homes and small businesses from anywhere in the world. Home security systems, door locks, home heating and air conditioning systems, and remote video monitoring can now travel with you in your pocket and can be adjusted and monitored from anywhere over the wireless Internet. The consumer benefits of these innovations are real – security, savings, sustainability and convenience – and these services are coming to Michigan.

Michigan's current laws that cover innovations like these wireless home automation services were written in the 1960s, long before the Internet, wireless broadband, and the explosion of smartphones and other wireless Internet devices. Senate Bill 1291 has a simple goal, one that we support: Modernize our laws, streamline a statewide process and set statewide standards for qualifying entity to become a provider of wireless Internet security and monitoring services for homes and businesses.

It is our hope that you will consider passing Senate Bill 1291 and Senate Bill 1292, and continue your solid stewardship of Michigan's economic growth. We must remain committed to making Michigan competitive economically and establish Michigan as a national leader in technology and innovation.

Sincerely,

Kristin Beltzer
Sr. Vice President, Gov. Relations & Public Affairs
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce