

October 22, 2013

Senator Mike Nofs
Chairman, Senate Energy and Technology Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Nofs,

I am writing to communicate our support for **Senate Bill 636**, legislation to eliminate out-of-date and duplicative regulations on telecommunications providers. Michigan is a national leader in forward-thinking, competition-driven, consumer-friendly telecommunications policy and it is crucial we continue to make the policy changes necessary to keep that reputation alive and well. We want Michigan to continue to be an attractive place for new investment and innovation.

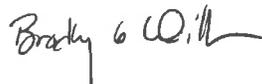
The Detroit Regional Chamber is made up of over 20,000 members and affiliates, who range in size from sole proprietors to fortune 500 companies and employ over ¾ million people across a ten county region of Metropolitan Detroit. As technology transitions and develops, it is important that our members have access to new and innovative services and the companies that provide them have the flexibility to continue to move the needle forward and drive innovation and investment to Michigan's technology infrastructure.

Currently, telecom providers are required to go before both the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to seek approval for discontinuance of service. This legislation would eliminate the duplicative requirement to go before the MPSC. The thorough FCC process would remain in place, which includes a comment period, public hearing and significant input from the MPSC.

This statutory change would allow for telecommunications providers to transition from an old and out-of-date wire line system to one that is both wireless and IP based while still maintaining service, competition, reliability and safety to its customers. It would also provide telecom companies the certainty needed to make sound business decisions regarding their investment capabilities.

We ask that you vote **Yes** on **Senate Bill 636** to encourage continued investment and innovation in Michigan's telecommunications infrastructure. At a time when our surrounding states are making these reforms, we need to ensure we aren't at a disadvantage and we continue to be a forward-looking state with our telecommunications policy. Consumers are embracing new technology and we need to have the tools to deliver that to them.

Sincerely,



Bradley G. Williams
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Members of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee