



December 5, 2018

The Honorable Bill Beagle  
Chairman, Senate Public Utilities Committee  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Beagle,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for House Bill 402, legislation that would make necessary and important updates to Ohio's outdated telecommunications laws.

Rotary phones are now a relic of the past, but Ohio's telecommunications providers operate under a set of rules and regulations built for that era. Every year, fewer and fewer people use landlines and instead rely solely on wireless service. We live in the age of the Internet, and it's time we adopt legislation that reflects that.

Three of the states that border Ohio, as well as several other states in the Midwest, have already acted to modernize their telecommunications laws. To ensure Ohio remains a competitive place to do business and is at the forefront of innovation, we need to have in place a regulatory environment that allows businesses to invest in emerging communications technologies, products and services, and that is supportive of these investments. HB 402 will greatly reduce burdensome regulations currently inhibiting our local telephone providers, freeing them to do just that: invest in their telecommunication infrastructure, creating jobs and economic development opportunities throughout Ohio.

In short, because the way people communicate has fundamentally changed, Ohio's laws and its regulatory landscape should be updated. The Ohio Chamber respectfully asks you and the members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee to favorably report HB 402. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Lake  
Vice President, Government Affairs