



May 2, 2011

Senator Mark Scheffel
Minority Caucus Chair
200 E Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

RE: VoIP Legislation

Dear Senator Scheffel:

The Voice on the Net (VON) Coalition¹, which represents the nation's leading companies developing and delivering voice innovations over the Internet, writes to express its thanks for your efforts concerning SB 11-262. In particular, we appreciate your proposal to ensure that interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") service remains regulated at the federal level, not state level. We encourage you to continue to pursue the legislation in the next legislative session, because it is with these types of laws that Colorado consumers can benefit from the lower prices and robust services promised by IP communications technologies, and the state will benefit from additional investment in the broadband infrastructure that is necessary to deliver these innovative products and services.

By passing VoIP preemption legislation, Colorado would join federal policymakers and more than 17 states that have recognized that to unleash the vast benefits that VoIP can deliver, the service should not be subject to a potential patchwork of conflicting state regulatory models. VoIP legislation is particularly important for consumers living in rural Colorado who have yet to enjoy the benefits of broadband and voice competition.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions. And thank you again for your leadership on this critical policy issue.

Sincerely,

The VON Coalition

Glenn S. Richards
Executive Director
202.663.8215
Glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com

¹The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over the Internet. The coalition, which includes AT&T, Broadvox, BT, Google, iBasis, Microsoft, Skype, T-Mobile USA, Vonage and Yahoo!, works to advance regulatory policies that enable Americans to take advantage of the full promise and potential of VoIP. The Coalition believes that with the right public policies, Internet based voice advances can make talking more affordable, businesses more productive, jobs more plentiful, the Internet more valuable, and Americans more safe and secure. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has promoted pragmatic policy choices for unleashing VoIP's potential. <http://www.von.org>