



February 9, 2013

(Via e-mail)

The Honorable Thomas Forese, Chairman  
House Committee on Commerce  
Arizona Legislature  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: HB2532

Dear Chairman Forese:

The Voice on the Net (VON) Coalition<sup>1</sup>, which represents the nation's leading companies developing and delivering voice innovations over the Internet, writes to express its support for the passage of HB2532. In particular, we appreciate the proposal to ensure that Voice over Internet Protocol services and Internet Protocol-enabled services are not subject to regulation by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

IP communications can be a force for increased competition, a platform for innovation, a driver for broadband deployment and a vehicle for continued economic growth. In fact, with the right policies, IP communications competition can save Arizona consumers millions of dollars annually – putting real money back into consumers' pockets when they really need it. Further, by harnessing IP communications as a broadband driver (since, for example, VoIP calls are carried over broadband connections), increased broadband adoption in Arizona will create jobs as the country works its way out of these difficult economic times.

To help ensure that Arizona consumers can benefit from these transformative Internet Protocol enabled services, HB2532 clarifies that Internet Protocol-enabled services are not subject to regulation by the ACC. The bill maintains the status quo regarding other statutory provisions, including any currently applicable fees or assessments that may apply to VoIP or Internet Protocol enabled services.

By adopting these provisions, Arizona would join policymakers in 25 states that have recognized that to unleash the vast benefits that Internet Protocol enabled services can deliver, the service should not be subject to a potential patchwork of conflicting state regulatory models. These provisions are particularly important for consumers living in rural Arizona who may not yet enjoy the benefits of broadband and voice competition.

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<sup>1</sup>The 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, Cloud Communications Alliance, Google, iBasis, Microsoft, Nextiva, Skype, 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>



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Rather than adopting state-specific rules for VoIP, government leaders in states like California, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Utah, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin have all taken steps to prevent state regulation of IP communications in order to boost broadband deployment, make communications services more affordable, and harness Internet Protocol enabled services vast potential for important public policy goals. We encourage you to follow suit and push for the passage of HB2532.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The VON Coalition

Glenn S. Richards  
Executive Director  
202.663.8215  
[Glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:Glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com)

Cc: House Commerce Committee members (via email)