



April 5, 2013

(Via e-mail)

The Honorable David P. Bobzien
Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

RE: Assembly Bill 486 (AB 486)

Dear Chairman Bobzien:

The Voice on the Net (VON) Coalition¹, which represents the nation's leading technology companies, including Google, Microsoft, Yahoo! and Vonage, writes to express its strong support for AB 486. In particular, we appreciate the proposal to maintain and codify Nevada's current policy of non-regulation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and other Internet-based communications services.

These services are a powerful force for increased competition, a platform for innovation, a key driver of broadband deployment and a vehicle for continued economic growth and consumer benefit. They are the next generation of communications applications — or “apps” — that are rapidly being deployed to meet consumer demand. In contrast to traditional, landline telephone service, VoIP and other Internet-based communications services are broadband services that utilize Internet Protocol (IP) technology — which changes the contents of the communication into digital packets and sends them over the fastest available route over the Internet. By utilizing IP technology, these services provide an integrated suite of capabilities and features for consumers to communicate by voice, data and/or video, and to manage their communications dynamically. These features and capabilities far exceed those of traditional, landline telephone service.

VoIP and other Internet-based communications services are driving economic growth and broadband adoption, which in turn drive the growth of “apps” and the devices that enable consumers to use them, which in turn drives the deployment of broadband networks which these apps and devices utilize. This “virtuous cycle” of economic growth and

¹ 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 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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consumer adoption will create good, high-tech jobs as Nevada continues to work its way out of these difficult economic times.

That is why policymakers in 25 other states and the District of Colombia — including most recently California, Wyoming and Utah — have adopted similar legislation to ensure that VoIP and other Internet-based communications services remain free from patchwork state “utility” regulation. Today, no state regulates VoIP and other Internet-based communications services, including the Nevada PUC, which states on its website that it does not regulate VoIP. The bill codifies and maintains this policy, while ensuring that key wholesale, consumer protection, and current taxes remain unchanged.

Nevada should not get left behind. We respectfully urge you to join these other, forward-looking states and adopt this important legislation, to promote the virtuous cycle of economic growth and job creation that the broadband ecosystem fosters.

Please do not hesitate to contact if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The VON Coalition

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cc: Members of the Assembly Commerce Committee