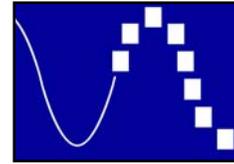


February 19, 2010



The VON Coalition

The Honorable Timothy J. DeGeeter
Chairman, Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman DeGeeter:

The Voice on the Net Coalition is a trade association made up of the nation's leading companies¹ that are developing and delivering Internet Protocol-enabled applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), to consumers, businesses and government agencies throughout the United States. We write today to encourage you and your colleagues in the Ohio House to resist the erection of state regulatory barriers that could stall the technological advancements that VoIP can deliver.

VoIP can be a force for increased competition, a platform for innovation, a driver of broadband deployment and an enabler of economic growth. With continued advancement, VoIP driven competition has the potential to save consumers more than \$100 billion over the next 5 years. For businesses, VoIP is lowering costs, increasing mobility, enabling collaboration, integrating voice and data in entirely new ways, boosting productivity by as much as 15 percent, and giving companies a competitive advantage. For consumers, VoIP is lowering communications costs and providing enhanced functionality.

It is our understanding that an amendment to House Bill 276 will be proposed that would simply retain the status quo in Ohio in relation to VoIP regulation, allowing the Public Utility Commission of Ohio act consistent with federal law, if necessary. We would ask that you support that amendment, if proposed.

The VON Coalition urges the adoption of the VoIP amendment and asks for your support. Because VoIP services are designed and built over wide geographic areas without regard to state boundaries, a nationalized approach will allow networks to be deployed with common systems, platforms and processes, and result in efficiencies and cost savings to consumers. To continue to develop, there must be regulatory certainty for IP service providers, applications developers and equipment manufacturers.

¹ VON Coalition members include Cisco, Google, iBasis, Microsoft, New Global Telecom, Skype, T-Mobile, Vonage and Yahoo.

February 19, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns about House Bill 276. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional information regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Glenn S. Richards
Executive Director
202-663-8215 (phone)
glenn.richards@pillsburylaw.com (email)

Cc: Members of the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee