



OHIO

October 13, 2009

The Honorable Bill Harris
President, Ohio Senate
The Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Harris:

As the Ohio Senate reviews the Ohio Telecom Modernization Act of 2009 (Senate Bill 162), I would like to share with you the views of the Ohio Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/Ohio) on the bill.

NFIB/Ohio represents over 25,000 small business owners of varying size and industry class. Our members are much attuned to the impact that government regulations have on their bottom line. NFIB believes in commonsense business regulation that levels the playing field for all competitors and promotes strong free market principles.

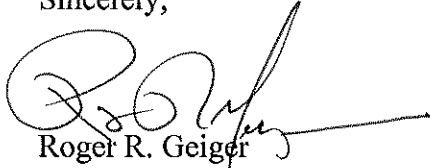
NFIB believes SB 162 will help do that. The bill will update and modernize Ohio's telecom laws and will allow all communications providers to compete under the same rules. Without fair application of the rules, core capitalistic principles are ignored and competition can be suppressed. As you are aware, the communications industry has changed dramatically in the past decade. Consumers now have a number of options for telephone service in addition to the traditional wire service, including wireless, cable phones, and internet phones. NFIB believes Ohio's laws should reflect these new choices and the competition they create in the marketplace.

Like most people, our members worry about Ohio's economy and job creation. As I am sure you know, small businesses account for anywhere between 60 and 80 percent of net new jobs. NFIB is concerned about this issue because we are afraid that our current outmoded rules may hinder investment in Ohio by the telecom industry and discourage healthy competition in the marketplace. We would prefer to see the telecom industry invest in new infrastructure and equipment rather than

spend money complying with outdated regulations. New investment will bolster our economy and provide NFIB members with state of the art services.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,



Roger R. Geiger
Vice President/Executive Director



Ty R. Pine
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Chris Widener, Chair Senate Energy and Public Utilities
Senator Ray Miller, Ranking Member Senate Energy and Public Utilities
Senator Bob Gibbs