



Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers
• Working together for Ohio's farmers •

October 19, 2009

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High St.
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland:

As the largest general farm organization in the state, the Ohio Farm Bureau represents the interests of more than 235,000 members in Ohio. Organized in every county in the state, membership is comprised of farmers and landowners as well as interested rural and urban residents. Rural communications is of great importance to all our members and it is for this reason that we support Senate Bill 162 and House Bill 276, the Ohio Telecom Modernization Act of 2009.

This legislation will modernize our state's telecommunications laws while spurring economic development and jobs through increased competition throughout the state. Failure to upgrade these laws could hinder new investment in our state, new investment that could include broadband deployment, which you know is vitally needed in rural Ohio. We would like to see the communications industry invest in new infrastructure and equipment rather than on complying with outdated regulations.

We believe this legislation continues to protect the customer through carrier of last resort obligations, the PUCO customer complaint process, and rate caps for basic service.

We ask that you join us in supporting Senate Bill 162 and House Bill 276.

Sincerely,

John C. Fisher
Executive Vice-President

Cc: Senator Bill Harris, Senate President
Representative Armond Budish, Speaker of the House
Senator Chris Widener, Chair Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter, Chair House Public Utilities Committee
Senator Steve Buehrer
Representative Allan Sayre