



February 12, 2010

Representative James Soletski, Chairman
Representative Josh Zepnick, Vice-Chair
Representative Mark Honadel
Representative Michael Huebsch
Representative Phil Montgomery
Representative Joe Parisi
Representative Kevin Petersen
Representative Jon Richards
Representative Anthony Staskunas
Representative John Steinbrink
Representative Ted Zigmunt
Representative Rich Zipperer

Re: AB-696

Dear Assembly Utility Committee Members,

The Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC) is a private non-profit business association whose members employ over 32,000 people in Southeast Wisconsin. Our member businesses are working hard to create a climate in Wisconsin that encourages investment and new jobs. RAMAC also encourages policy changes that foster competition and fairness for companies who invest in Wisconsin. We therefore ask your support of Assembly Bill 696 to create a level playing field for telecom carriers.

Today telecom service providers operate under different regulatory rules, where newer providers have been regulated under a more market-oriented structure that emphasizes competition instead of rigid regulatory oversight. Some traditional phone companies are still regulated by rules that stem from an era when telecommunications were used only for voice communication and no competitors existed. We need to level the playing field and apply the same oversight to all carriers, which is what AB-696 will accomplish.

In the age of digital computing and the Internet, we need to encourage innovation and competition in the marketplace and the current rules create an obvious disadvantage for Wisconsin businesses and residents. It is time for the State Legislature to make changes to the outdated rules and unfair regulation. Please support AB-696 so that Wisconsin can improve its ability to attract new business and hold on to existing members of the business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Caron".

Roger Caron
President

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