

**To:** Wisconsin State Legislature

**From:** CenturyLink,  
Communication Workers of America Union Local 4603,  
Communication Workers of America Union Local 4640,  
Communication Workers of America Union Local 4622,  
Communication Workers of America Union Local 4630,  
Citizens Utility Board,  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups,  
Lakefield Communications,  
Lakefield Telephone,  
Municipal Electric Utilities Association of WI,  
National Federation of Independent Businesses,  
Nsight Telservices f/k/a Northeast Telephone Co. and Bayland  
Telephone Co,  
Sprint,  
Wisconsin Grocers Association

Last week AT & T sent a memo to members of the Legislature urging support for the major telecommunications deregulation bill that is currently pending. In it they cite 1993 Wisconsin Act 496 as the last time the Legislature made significant updates to telecommunications regulation in this state.

We thought it would be a fair to compare the process used to arrive at the last deregulation legislation to this time.

**The last time began with a Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force, with all sides represented, meeting for 7 months, followed by 3 months of drafting, followed by 5 months in the Legislature, including 3 different committees, a Regular Session and a Special Session of the Legislature before the bill was passed.**

**This time the bill was drafted behind closed doors, introduced at the end of February, had one public hearing, and is now being voted on by the Assembly a month and a half after introduction.**

The members of this coalition ask the Wisconsin Legislature to oppose SB-469/AB-696 and to put a process in place that will insure all interested parties get a seat at the table. Significant updates to the regulatory framework for telecommunications are needed, but it must be done in a way that takes into account more than just a small segment of the industry.

**PLEASE OPPOSE SB-469/AB-696**