



Telecommunications Industry Association
Advancing Global Communications



*The Voice of Critical
Infrastructure Communications*

February 3, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Shafer
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Regulated Industries
236 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: S. 313

Dear Senator Shafer:

We, the private-sector companies and trade associations listed below, urge you to **oppose SB 313** because this bill, if enacted, will harm both the public and private sectors, stifle economic growth, prevent the creation or retention of thousands of jobs, hamper work force development and diminish the quality of life in Georgia. In particular, SB 313 will hurt the private sector in several ways: by curtailing public-private partnerships; by stifling the ability of private companies to sell equipment and services to public broadband providers; and by impairing economic and educational opportunities that would contribute to a skilled workforce from which businesses across the state would benefit.

The United States continues to suffer through difficult economic times. The private sector alone cannot lift the United States out of this crisis. As a result, federal and state efforts are taking place across the Nation, including Georgia, to deploy both private and public broadband infrastructure to stimulate and support economic development and job creation, especially in economically distressed areas. SB 313 would impose burdensome financial and regulatory requirements that will prevent public broadband providers from building the sorely needed advanced broadband infrastructure that will stimulate local businesses development, foster work force retraining, and boost employment in these economically depressed areas.

Consistent with these expressions of national unity, public entities in Georgia and across America are ready, willing, and able to do their share to bring affordable high-capacity broadband connectivity to all Americans. Enactment of direct or effective barriers to public broadband initiatives, including SB 313, would be counterproductive to the achievement of these goals. SB 313 is also inconsistent with America's National Broadband Plan, which states that States should not enact any new barriers to community broadband initiatives and should remove existing barriers.

We support strong, fair and open competition to ensure that users can enjoy the widest range of choices and opportunities. SB 313 is a step in the wrong direction. It is bad for Georgia's communities, bad for Georgia's private sector, particularly high-technology companies, and bad for America's global competitiveness. **Please oppose SB 313 and any amendment or other measure that could significantly impair community broadband deployments or public-private partnerships in Georgia.**

Sincerely,

Alcatel-Lucent
American Public Power Association
Atlantic Engineering
Fiber to the Home Council
Google
OnTrac
Southeast Association of Telecommunications
Officers and Advisors
Telecommunications Industry Association
Utilities Telecom Council

cc: Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle
Senator Chip Rogers, President of the Senate
Senator Tommie Williams, President Pro Tempore
Senator Renee S. Unterman
Senator Ed Harbison
Senator Gloria S. Butler
Senator Buddy Carter
Senator Frank Ginn
Senator Steve Henson
Senator Jack Hill
Senator George Hooks
Senator Rick Jeffares
Senator William Ligon, Jr.
Senator Barry Loudermilk
Senator Joshua McKoon
Marcia Rubensohn