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**HB 2326**  
**Senate Commerce Committee**  
**March 6, 2012**

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Dina Fisk. I represent Verizon and I am here in support of HB 2326. Lyle Williamson, Verizon's Central Regional Director, intended to fly to Kansas for this hearing, but due to medical reasons he was not able to be here today to make his presentation.

Verizon supports HB 2326 that will provide certainty for investors and stimulation for innovation in the broadband and Internet "app" economy. HB 2326 will make clear the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and other IP-enabled services will not be subject to legacy telephone regulations in Kansas.

You have Mr. Williamson's written testimony in your packet, which describes the VoIP and IP-enabled services. He explains the role these services play in what is called the "broadband ecosystem" and illustrates why states across the country are embracing this legislation and why Kansas should, as well. He makes several points that underscores the importance of VoIP and other IP-enabled services, which play a significant role in the growth of the broadband ecosystem and, like other services and "apps", help drive and expand the "virtuous cycle" of economic growth.

In summary, VoIP is not the same as traditional telephone services. As a threshold matter, **VoIP, by definition, requires a broadband connection – it is a broadband service.** This is what makes VoIP an essential part of the broadband ecosystem, and it is more properly viewed as an **application** that rides over broadband networks.

VoIP does much more than plain old telephone service – it is the IP-based nature of the service that allows VoIP this suite of integrated capabilities and features. Users can send and receive information and access their calls and information in a variety of ways from multiple devices. Users can retrieve voicemail messages through a computer or receive them in an email, with the actual message attached as a sound file, have caller identification information appear on a television screen, cause incoming calls to ring at multiple locations simultaneously, or combine voice calling with a live video connection.

Simply because you can use VoIP to make a “regular” call just like you can make a call using traditional telephone service does not mean that VoIP is the same thing (or should be treated the same way) as plain old telephone service.

Now is the time for this Legislature to determine the proper *Kansas policy*, to make clear for Kansas that these exciting new services will be free to develop without being subject to legacy telephone-company regulations designed for the monopoly era of the past, to provide certainty to investors and innovators that Kansas is open for business and to promote economic growth particularly in the high-tech, broadband sector of the economy.

Thank you, and I ask for your support of HB 2326. I stand for questions.