



## **GREATER LAPORTE CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE**

### **Telecommunication Regulatory Reform**

**Issue:** HB 1148 has been introduced to prohibit a political subdivision from controlling, owning, or operating facilities for providing cable, telecommunications and information services.

The telecommunication infrastructure in many communities is not sufficient to meet the needs of growing business, educational and healthcare institutions that require access to high volume fiber optic. In some cases local access operators have been unwilling to provide cost effective high speed telecommunications infrastructure, local entities should be able to provide those services.

**Position:** The Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce urges the Indiana General Assembly to encourage communities to expand broadband capabilities to maximize economic development opportunities. The Chamber urges the defeat of HB1148 and any legislation that would make it more difficult for communities to provide telecommunication infrastructure necessary for economic growth.

**Endorsed:** 1/16/05 Governmental Affairs Committee