



Local Government: Partner in Promoting Video Competition

**URGE YOUR SENATORS TO OPPOSE
ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITY REFORM ACT (H.R. 5252)**

The Advanced Telecommunications and Opportunity Reform Act (H.R. 5252), formerly known as the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S. 2686), preempts state and local tax authority, limits broadband-video competition to a few well-to-do neighborhoods, undermines local cable television franchising enforcement and compliance authority, and weakens the ability of local governments to protect their residents.

The bill would harm consumers, cities and counties in many ways, including:

1. It fails to keep local governments financially whole because it strips state and local governments of tax authority over broadband and wireless telecommunications services.
2. It would permit local telephone companies to pick and choose the neighborhoods in which they want to provide video and broadband services, while allowing them to bypass other neighborhoods completely.
3. It would replace strong state and local consumer protection and customer service standards with federal standards drafted by federal bureaucrats not accountable to state and local communities and consumers.
4. It would unilaterally preempt other carefully crafted state and local laws that encourage competition and protect the public interest.

State and local government associations are united in their opposition to the bill and the damage it would do to our system of federalism. The National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the International City/County Management Association have issued a joint letter to Senators Frist and Reid urging them to oppose this legislation. Urge your Senators to do the same.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATORS TODAY (www.senate.gov) and tell them this bill is bad for the reasons above, to vote against closing debate on this bill, and to vote “no” if this bill comes to the Senate floor. Email your concerns or simply dial the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your senators' offices. Urge them to OPPOSE this bill.