



Local Government: Partner in Promoting Video Competition

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS TO OPPOSE AMENDMENTS HARMFUL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, CONSUMER'S CHOICE AND BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2006 (S.2686)

The Senate Commerce Committee will be considering S. 2686 today, June 22. After numerous negotiations, the legislation now preserves the ability of local governments to manage their rights-of-way and acknowledges that the courts have jurisdiction over rights-of-way disputes, rather than the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In addition, the definition of gross revenue is substantially improved and the bill retains the ability of the local franchising authority to conduct audits.

However, many of these strides will be undermined if the Commerce Committee adopts certain amendments to the bill. We encourage you or your elected official to contact your Senators and urge them to express opposition to amendments that strip local authority to franchise the use of their rights-of-way for video services and give that authority to the FCC in Washington, D.C., limit the benefits of broadband-video competition to a few well-to-do neighborhoods, undermine the ability of local governments to protect consumers and manage public rights-of-way, preempt local telecommunications taxing authority, and make permanent the moratorium on Internet access taxes.

Specifically we urge opposition to:

- Senator John McCain's (R-Arizona) Amendments (Franchise Fee Cap Reduced from 5% to 3%; Ban on All Cell Phone Specific Taxes).
- Senator John Ensign's (R-Nevada) Amendments (Reduces PEG Funding; Impedes Local Government Rights-of-Way Control and Authority).
- Senator Jim DeMint's (R-South Carolina) Amendments (Limits PEG Support and Places New Hurdles on Franchise Process).
- Senator George Allen's (R-Virginia) Amendment (Internet Tax Freedom – Makes Permanent the Moratorium on Internet Access Taxes).

FOR QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT BARRIE TABIN BERGER IN THE FEDERAL LIAISON CENTER AT BTBERGER@GFOA.ORG OR 202-393-8020