



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

July 19, 2007

Dear ALEC Task Force Member,

The Independent Telephone and Telecommunication Alliance (ITTA) is a national trade association representing midsize local exchange carriers throughout 47 states. ITTA member companies are among industry leaders in providing a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless voice, data, and video telecommunications to some of the most rural and remote parts of our country.

During the ALEC annual convention in Philadelphia you will be voting on a proposed model legislation that would wholly deregulate Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. On behalf of the midsize telephone carriers and the 14 million customers that ITTA member companies serve, we respectfully ask you to defeat any such proposal.

ITTA member companies support deregulation of the telecommunication industry. However, we cannot support any proposal that would deregulate one segment of the industry without deregulating the other segments. The proposed legislation would use public policy as a tool to pick winners and losers and in this case, the losers would be consumers living in rural America who would be left paying more in local phone rates to compensate for an uncompetitive regime that this model legislation would create.

The integrity of the entire voice communications network, much of which enables IP calls, is at risk if the proposed legislation moves forward. Furthermore, the proposed model legislation would strip the local state authority to ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live has access to affordable telecommunications.

ITTA member companies are aggressively pushing new innovative telecommunications technologies to your constituents that include utilizing or transitioning to IP-based services. However, regulatory parity and certainty in the marketplace are two constants that must exist for continued investment. We hope that you will seek policies that treat voice communication services as equals and not use our democratic process to pick winners and losers.

Sincerely,

Paul Raak
Director, Legislative Affairs
Independent Telephone and Telecommunication Alliance