



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*** * * PRESS STATEMENT * * ***

(WASHINGTON) The following statement in response to FCC Chairman Wheeler's blog post today calling for modification of the Commission's policies to address collusive behavior by television broadcast stations was released by ITTA and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

"ITTA is encouraged by the Chairman's recognition that joint sales agreements (JSAs), shared services agreements (SSAs), and other sidecar agreements between broadcast stations can be problematic. JSAs, SSAs, and other formal or informal cooperative business arrangements between broadcasters, especially those that permit joint retransmission negotiations, may significantly harm competition and result in higher prices and less choice for consumers. Such arrangements are a significant source of the skyrocketing retransmission fees imposed by broadcasters.

ITTA commends the Chairman's efforts to curtail the anti-competitive and anti-consumer consequences that can stem from such coordinated activities by broadcasters. We urge the full Commission to approve the Chairman's proposals at its March 31st agenda meeting."

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ITTA represents mid-size communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless voice, broadband, Internet, and video services in 44 states. For more information, please visit www.itta.us.