



**For Immediate Release  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Senate Judiciary Committee STELA Reauthorization Bill a Missed Opportunity**

WASHINGTON - The following statement was released by ITTA – the Voice of Mid-Size Telecommunications Carriers, and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“ITTA is disappointed that the STELA reauthorization bill the Senate Judiciary Committee introduced today does not include language to protect consumers from collusive behavior by broadcasters, such as the practice of extracting higher prices for broadcast content by jointly negotiating for carriage of video programming.

Both the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have recognized the harm that results when “sharing” arrangements, whether formal or informal, allow one broadcaster to exert influence or control over another and thereby circumvent federal ownership restrictions and the goals they are intended to advance. The Senate Judiciary Committee can and should build upon recent efforts by the FCC to put an end to these practices by adding language to the STELA reauthorization bill that would ban collusion by broadcasters during retransmission consent negotiations across the board.

ITTA remains optimistic that Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley will seize the opportunity before mark-up of the legislation to act on behalf of consumers and put an end to such collusive behavior.”