



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

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

ITTA Commends Senator Ayotte for Introducing Legislation That Addresses USF Inequalities

(Washington) The following statement was released today by the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA).

“ITTA commends Senator Ayotte (R, NH) for introducing S. 1766, the “USF Equitable Distribution Act of 2013.”

“Senator Ayotte’s legislation underscores the importance of a federal Universal Service Fund (USF) that provides sufficient universal service support to all high cost rural locations throughout the country. ITTA has been a longtime advocate for USF reform that targets funding to those high cost areas, regardless of geographic location, that need the support the most.”

“However, while S. 1766 brings needed attention to how and where universal service support is distributed, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress have neglected to address how universal service funds are collected. The current universal service contribution system is in dire need of reform and until reform that broadens the contribution base has been implemented the federal USF system will remain inequitable and out of step with today’s communications technologies and market realities.”

“ITTA is hopeful that the introduction of S. 1766, combined with new leadership at the FCC, will result in USF contribution reform finally being addressed, leading to a more sustainable and efficient Universal Service Fund for all consumers.”

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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 telecommunications services to 20 million access lines in 44 states.