



The voice of mid-size communications companies

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

ITTA Supports Legislation That Reigns in the FCC's Unconstitutional Preemption of States' Rights on Municipal Broadband Entry

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA - The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“ITTA applauds Representative Marsha Blackburn (R, TN) and Senator Thom Tillis (R, NC) for introducing legislation that would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from using Section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act to preempt state laws governing municipal entry into the telecommunications market.

As former state legislators, Representative Blackburn and Senator Tillis understand that it is the job of state governments to oversee the functioning of their local governmental units. Any action by the FCC to preempt states from exercising this authority would compromise this vital relationship and would improperly disrupt the constitutionally-mandated roles of the states and the federal government. Representative Blackburn and Senator Tillis’s legislation would protect the sovereign rights of the states from overreach by the FCC, a federal agency with no constitutional authority to preempt state laws on municipal broadband entry.

ITTA will continue to work with Congress and the FCC on finding policy solutions that encourage the expansion of broadband networks while at the same time preserving the rights of the states to protect and promote the interests of their citizens.”

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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 to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across 45 states. For more information, please visit www.itta.us.