

# News Center

## Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Burns Releases Statement on Senator Steven's Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act**

**Bill contains many "principles" Burns outlined in  
February**

**May 2, 2006**

WASHINGTON D.C. -

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) today released a statement on Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK), praising the Chairman for his recently introduced "Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006."

Senator Burns said, "Chairman Stevens deserves a lot of credit for introducing such a thoughtful and far reaching telecommunications bill. I'm very pleased that most of the principles I set forth earlier this year are addressed and adhered to in this piece of legislation in regards to video franchising. And I'm also grateful to see that Senator Stevens incorporated my NetUSA bill, which will aid people living in rural areas of the country, like Montana, by keeping their phone bills low while expediting the spread of new technologies to those rural communities. I look forward to the hearings we will have on this bill, and working with the rest of the Committee to craft the best telecommunications bill possible."

Senator Burns is a Member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and a three-term U.S. Senator.

#####

Press Release of Senator Ensign

**PORTION OF TELECOM REFORM BILL MODELED AFTER ENSIGN LEGISLATION**

Monday, May 1, 2006

Washington, D.C. – Part of the telecom reform legislation introduced today by Commerce Committee Chairman Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) is modeled after a bill authored by Senator John Ensign, Chairman of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force. The bill is designed to update America's telecommunications laws to promote competition and provide savings for American consumers.

"One of the centerpieces of this legislation is video franchising reform. The bill is based largely on legislation introduced by Senator Ensign," Senator Stevens said on the Senate floor this afternoon as he introduced the Communications, Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006.

The Ensign bill Senator Stevens referenced was S.1504, the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act, which streamlines the video franchise process.

"I'm very proud to have played a role in the development of this bill, which will benefit consumers for generations to come by providing market-based reforms that will improve choices and lower prices in the field of technology," Ensign said. "Senator Stevens' leadership has been the driving force behind the crucial modernization of our telecom laws."

America's telecom laws have not been updated since 1996.

## Press Releases

For Immediate Release  
May 2, 2006, Washington, D.C.

Contact: Wendy Mann, CAE, Coalition to Keep America Connected, 703-351-2148  
[info@keepamericaconnected.org](mailto:info@keepamericaconnected.org)

### **Coalition to Keep America Connected Applauds Sen. Stevens on the Introduction of the "Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006" Bill**

#### ***Coalition Recognizes and Commends Stevens for the Pro-Consumer Focus in Proposed Legislation***

Washington, D.C., May 2, 2006 - The Coalition to Keep America Connected today applauded Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) for launching the "Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006," which includes many pro-consumer provisions and takes positive steps to modernize and bring accountability to the Universal Service Fund (USF).

"The USF is critical to ensuring that all consumers have access to affordable telecommunications services and the latest technologies-no matter where they live," Coalition Representative and National Telecommunications Cooperative Association Vice President Shirley Bloomfield said. "Sen. Stevens' leadership on these issues shows his commitment to craft a solution that modernizes the current Universal Service Fund and his vision to bring broadband to consumers everywhere. Supporting universal service and broadband deployment will provide consumers access to exciting new products and services, which will enable all to thrive in the global community.

"The Coalition to Keep America Connected looks forward to working closely with Sen. Stevens, the Commerce Committee and the entire Congress to get the best possible outcome for consumers everywhere."

###

**AT&T Praises Sens. Stevens and Inouye For Leadership in Bringing Choice to Consumers**

*Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Stevens and Ranking Member Inouye introduced a comprehensive telecom bill that includes video franchising reform.*

*The following statement may be attributed to Tim McKone, AT&T Executive Vice President-Federal Relations:*

"Today Chairman Stevens and Sen. Inouye have taken a bold step introducing legislation that will bring video choice for consumers and investment in the future's broadband infrastructure. We applaud the lawmakers for their leadership in reforming an outdated system that prevents consumers from realizing the benefits of competition for video services. We look forward to working with the Senate Commerce Committee and the entire Senate in the coming months as we move forward."

####

Contact:  
Teri Rucker 202-326-8853  
Claudia Jones 202-326-8867

*Verizon:*

*Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) today introduced legislation that updates the nation's telecommunications laws and addresses the need for video franchise reform. The following statement is attributed to Peter B. Davidson, Verizon Senior Vice President-Federal Government Relations:*

"We commend Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye for introducing the 'Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006' that will bring competition and choice to the video market in order to bring better services and lower prices to consumers. This bill also recognizes the importance of allowing the Internet to grow and innovate without government intervention. While we are still reviewing all aspects of the bill, we look forward to working with the Committee as the legislative process moves forward."

## NTCA APPLAUDS SEN. STEVENS FOR DRAFT TELECOM LEGISLATION

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, released comprehensive draft telecommunications legislation on May 1 entitled the Communications Consumer's Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006.

The draft bill contains many provisions that NTCA strongly supports. It expands the base of contributors to the Universal Service Fund (USF), allows USF to be used for deployment of broadband, exempts USF from the Anti-Deficiency Act, prohibits the FCC from limiting support to a single connection or line per household, leaves the high-cost fund uncapped, addresses phantom traffic by requiring carriers to identify their traffic and tightens the requirements for obtaining eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status, which a carrier must attain before receiving USF support. The legislation also contains language that opens additional spectrum to unlicensed usage, and, similar to other pending legislation, prohibits video content producers from discriminating against video service providers utilizing a shared headend [*Washington Report*, April 24 and May 1, 2006].

The association commended Stevens for his willingness to address many of the challenging issues on the telecom landscape, especially universal service. NTCA looks forward to continuing its work with Stevens and the entire committee to ensure that our nation's community-based communications providers are able to provide comparable, affordable communications service to their consumers in rural America.

-- Brian O'Hara, 703-351-2012

-- [bohara@ntca.org](mailto:bohara@ntca.org)

For Immediate Release

## NTCA Press Statement

Arlington, Va., May 2, 2006 - The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) Chief Executive Officer Michael E. Brunner released the following statement praising the leadership of Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) on the release of his draft comprehensive telecommunications legislation entitled, the “Communications Consumer’s Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006.”

“We commend Senator Stevens for his willingness to address many of the challenging issues on the telecom landscape—including his emphasis on ensuring a stable universal service fund.

“NTCA recognizes and appreciates Chairman Stevens’ efforts to be inclusive in this process by incorporating many of the legislative proposals suggested by other members of his committee.

“We look forward to continuing our work with the Chairman and the entire Senate Commerce Committee to ensure that our nation’s community-based communications providers are able to continue to provide comparable, affordable communications service to their consumers in rural America.”

###

*The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association is the premier association representing more than 560 locally owned and controlled telecommunications cooperatives and commercial companies throughout rural and small-town America. NTCA provides its members with legislative, regulatory and industry representation; meetings; publications and educational programs; and an array of employee benefit programs. Visit us at [www.ntca.org](http://www.ntca.org).*

Contact: Caitlin Colligan, 703-351-2086, [ccolligan@ntca.org](mailto:ccolligan@ntca.org)

# news



[NAB Home](#)  
[Newsroom](#)  
[Home](#)  
[Press](#)  
[Releases](#)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS, 1771 N STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2891

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 2, 2006

**CONTACT**

Dennis Wharton  
202-429-5350

**STATEMENT FROM NAB PRESIDENT & CEO DAVID K.  
REHR  
ON INCLUSION OF 'BROADCAST FLAG' LANGUAGE  
IN SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE TELECOM  
LEGISLATION**

"NAB joins the broadcast networks in saluting the Senate Commerce Committee's 'broadcast flag' protections in proposed telecommunications legislation. Protecting over-the-air programming in the digital era is central to maintaining consumer access to high-quality free television. We look forward to working with the Committee on this and other issues as the legislative process advances."

-30-

You are receiving this e-mail because our records indicate that you have expressed an interest in NAB and/or have participated in previous NAB events and you provided us with your email address. We value our reputation and want to ensure that you receive only the information of interest to you.

Forward this message to Ashley Brenner at [abrenner@nab.org](mailto:abrenner@nab.org) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line if you no longer wish to receive NAB press releases. [Click here](#) to stop receiving all future NAB e-mails.

[Official NAB Privacy Policy](#)

© 2006 [National Association of Broadcasters](#) 1771 N Street, NW, Washington DC 20036



May 2, 2006

**Broadcasters Applaud Senate Inclusion of TV Broadcast Flag  
Assuring High Value Content to Viewers**

Contact: Angelle Smith 202-222-4735

We applaud the Committee for including a TV Broadcast Flag provision to assure that high value content remains available to over-the-air viewers. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to ensure that the exceptions do not undermine that goal.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2006

***MPAA Chief Dan Glickman Applauds Inclusion of Broadcast Flag Provision in Stevens Telecom Bill; Pledges to work with Chairman and Committee to Protect Free-Over-the-Air High Value Content***

"I want to thank Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens for including a TV broadcast flag provision in the telecom reform bill that he plans to mark up in the coming months. While the provision is not perfect, it is a good start to an important debate. The future of free broadcast television is at stake. Why does that concern the Motion Picture Association of America? Because our member companies make the movies and many of the television shows that people like to see on free television.

"Without adequate protection provided by a vigorous broadcast flag in the digital era, high value programming may migrate exclusively to pay systems that do have adequate protection, such as cable and satellite. A TV broadcast flag protects the public's ability to see good quality programming on free over-the-air broadcasts as we make the digital transition mandated by Congress.

"Senator Stevens clearly recognized the importance of a broadcast flag by including it in his telecom reform legislation. I am concerned, however, that certain exceptions put in place in the draft bill may serve to undermine the underlying effort. We look forward to working with him to make certain that the language in the final bill accomplishes the overarching goal he seeks to achieve: protecting high value content on free-over-the-air broadcasts."

###

**For more information, contact:**

MPAA Washington, D.C.

Gayle Osterberg

(202) 293-1966

## **Iridium Lauds Introduction of Senate Bill as 1st Responders Prepare for June 1 Hurricane Season Launch**

PRNewswire  
BETHESDA, Md. May 4

BETHESDA, Md., May 4 /PRNewswire/ -- Iridium Satellite announces its first responder customer base is today better situated to access Congressional funding for pre-positioning emergency equipment. Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) have introduced Senate Bill S. 2686 -- the "Communications, Consumer's Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006." In particular, the "Strategic Technology Reserves Initiative" section of S. 2686 calls for the pre-positioning or securing of "communications equipment in advance for immediate deployment in an emergency or major disaster." Timing is optimal for this legislation since the U.S. hurricane season kicks off June 1.

Multiple third party reports have surfaced in the communications industry confirming that many states that could be affected by hurricanes this season are still far from being prepared from a communications perspective. First responder organizations have been working diligently to pre-position mobile satellite communications equipment so they are prepared for this year's hurricane season. However, they lack the financial resources to put their communications programs in place before June 1.

"Approving S. 2686 will deliver a strong message that comprehensive telecommunications reform is the only way to put the necessary tools in the hands of our first responders and to protect our citizens," said Greg Ewert, executive vice president, Iridium Satellite. "We commend Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye on their leadership on this issue."

Iridium supports keeping the crucial satellite communications language in S. 2686 intact. The company also urges House Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (R- TX) to include such provisions in an expected conference committee that will merge respective pieces of telecom legislation.

Iridium Satellite offers a backup emergency satellite communications package that first responder organizations can easily use in the event of an emergency. The Iridium package includes both voice and data communications products and services. Going into the 2006 hurricane season, many first responders are even looking beyond traditional voice services via satellite phones, and are concentrating on asset tracking and redirection of equipment, supplies, vehicles and personnel when disaster strikes. Iridium also is interoperable with all other emergency communications systems, including UHF and VHF radios, as well as others.

"First responders using Iridium tell us time and again that we're often the only line of communications they have, particularly during and right after disasters strike," Ewert said. "When communications infrastructure goes down, they need to get to the disaster scene and connect back to headquarters to coordinate their rescue and relief mission. In that scenario, it's prudent for first responders to already have equipment, to be familiar with it, to be trained on it, and to make sure it is charged and ready for use. This legislation supports their efforts to do so."

Due to the nature of the Iridium service, it often is a first responder tool of choice. The Iridium service is global, mobile, easy to set up, independent of land-based infrastructure, usable in and out of doors, and interoperable with all other first responder communications tools. It usually takes several days for first responders to set up more permanent, fixed communications services in a disaster scene. First responders use Iridium to keep in touch and coordinate rescue missions as they unfold.

"Iridium applauds the nation's leaders who recognize our first responder pool must be prepared for the next set of disasters, be they hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes or man-made disasters," Ewert said. "Pre-positioning and securing equipment is a sensible course of action. Now that the funding may be more easily accessible, our first responders can be more prepared, in communication with each other, and more in control of critical relief efforts."

#### About Iridium Satellite

Iridium Satellite LLC (<http://www.iridium.com/>) is the only provider of truly global satellite voice and data solutions with complete coverage of the earth (including oceans, airways and Polar Regions). Iridium delivers essential communications services to and from remote areas where no other form of communication is available. The Iridium constellation consists of 66 low- earth orbiting (LEO), cross-linked satellites and has multiple in-orbit spares. The constellation operates as a fully meshed network and is the largest commercial satellite constellation in the world. The Iridium service is ideally suited for industries such as maritime, aviation, government/military, emergency/humanitarian services, mining, forestry, oil and gas, heavy equipment, transportation and utilities. Iridium provides service to the U.S. DoD. The company also designs, builds and sells its services, products and solutions through a worldwide network of more than 100 partners.

#### Iridium Satellite LLC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
REMSSEN

CONTACT: ALLISON

Monday, May 1, 2006

202-326-7370

USTELECOM STATEMENT ON  
SENATE TELECOM LEGISLATION

*Background: Today, Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced legislation to modernize the nation's telecom laws and address the future of universal service.*

*The following statement is from Walter B. McCormick Jr., President & CEO of USTelecom:*

“Senators Stevens and Inouye have crafted legislation that will bring real video choice, put consumers in charge of the dynamic communications market and address the future of the nation’s universal service system. The bill’s introduction today is a significant step toward meaningful reform and we look forward to working with both the Senate and House to enact legislation this year.”



For Release – May 2, 2006  
For more information contact:

Drew Petersen  
Director-Legislative and Public Relations  
[andrew.petersen@tdstelecom.com](mailto:andrew.petersen@tdstelecom.com)  
608-664-4155

Michael Ogden  
Sr. Administrator-Public Relations  
[michael.ogden@tdstelecom.com](mailto:michael.ogden@tdstelecom.com)  
608-664-4428

### Making Strides Toward Telecom Reform

*New legislation could advance communications and broadband services to rural America.*

Madison, Wis. – On Monday, May 1st, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) introduced telecommunications reform legislation critical to the future growth and development of our nation.

The following statement can be attributed to David A. Wittwer, Chief Operating Officer for TDS Telecommunications Corporation:

"TDS Telecom welcomes the introduction by Chairman Stevens of the Communications Consumer's Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006. Further, we appreciate his willingness to be inclusive by incorporating many legislative suggestions from his colleagues

"Chairman Stevens, with this legislation, recognizes the critical role rural telecommunications providers play in bringing advanced communications services, including video entertainment services, to our chosen markets.

"By placing an emphasis on reforming and stabilizing the federal universal service fund, taking strides to increase broadband penetration rates, and rooting out unidentifiable or improperly labeled telecommunications traffic, not to mention establishing a federal video franchise framework, Chairman Stevens has set the mark for telecom reform in the U.S. Congress.

"While TDS Telecom continues to study the details and nuances contained in the legislation, we appreciate Chairman Stevens' dedication to this process, recognize the hard work his staff has put forward, and are encouraged for Congressional hearings to take place as soon as possible."

*TDS Telecom, a growing national company headquartered in Madison, Wis., brings high-quality, locally based telecommunications services to hundreds of rural and suburban communities across the United States. The company, along with its subsidiary TDS Metrocom, provides service for more than 1.2 million access line equivalents. Visit [www.tdstelecom.com](http://www.tdstelecom.com) for more information.*

*TDS Telecom is part of the Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. (NYSE: TDS) family of companies. TDS is a diversified telecommunications corporation founded in 1969. Through its strategic business units, U.S. Cellular (NYSE: USM) and TDS Telecom, TDS operates primarily by providing wireless and local telecommunications service. The company currently employs approximately 11,600 people and serves approximately 64 million customers in 36 states.*



4 May 2005

The Honorable Senator Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Stevens: *Td*

We would like to offer our personal thanks for taking time out of your demanding schedule to introduce the Communications Consumer's Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006. Your exhaustive research efforts have crafted a telecommunications reform bill that will ensure the future growth and development of our nation.

In short, the legislation's emphasis on reforming and stabilizing the federal universal service fund, increasing broadband penetration, and establishing a video franchise network will be of tremendous benefit to our local customers who deserve high-quality telecommunications services at affordable rates - no matter where they happen to live.

On behalf of TDS Telecom's 111 local exchange telephone companies located throughout the United States, we appreciate your hard work and that of your staff toward shepherding this legislation through the discussion process to introduction. Your advocacy efforts mean a tremendous amount to the success and growth of our company and therefore we look forward to Congressional hearings on this important public policy matter as soon as possible.

As always, should you have any questions related to mid-size telecommunications issues generally, or TDS Telecom more specifically, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us directly.

With regards,

*David Wittwar*  
David Wittwar  
Chief Operating Officer  
608.664.4000

*Andrew S. Petersen*  
Andrew S. Petersen  
Director-Government and Public Relations  
608.664.4155



May 2, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman  
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Co-Chairman  
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye:

We write as representatives of the high tech manufacturing industry to thank you for not mandating "network neutrality" regulation in S.2686, the telecom reform legislation you introduced yesterday. We believe our industry overwhelmingly would oppose a bill that mandated network neutrality regulation since such regulation would harm high tech manufacturers by reducing the incentive and ability of network owners - including incumbent cable TV operators, telephone companies, and cellular providers - to invest in local broadband networks. Network neutrality regulation would reduce the *incentive* to invest since such regulation, by definition, would make it unlawful for a broadband network owner to recover any part of the cost of certain investments (like some designed to provide increased security or higher transmission speeds) from the Internet content providers that benefit from them, thereby forcing the network owner to increase the price it charges consumers for broadband offerings like Internet access service if it hopes fully to recover those costs. Manufacturers fear that artificially limiting the way in which network owners may lawfully recover broadband investments will cause them not to make these huge new investments since millions of consumers may not be willing to pay a dramatically higher price for Internet access service.

Network neutrality regulation not only would reduce the incentive of network owners to invest in local broadband network infrastructure due to the risk that they would be unable to recover their investment, Wall Street appears to have concluded that this type of regulation also would make it more difficult for network owners to obtain investment capital. In fact, Craig Moffett, vice president and senior telecom analyst for Sanford Bernstein and Company, stated in testimony a few weeks ago before your Committee that network neutrality regulation "would sour Wall Street's taste for broadband infrastructure investments, making it increasingly difficult [for network owners] to sustain the necessary capital investments" to deploy new broadband network infrastructure and creating "a much sharper 'digital divide'" A new government regulatory scheme that soured Wall Street's taste for broadband infrastructure investments could plunge into recession vast segments of the high tech manufacturing industry – ranging from companies that make fiber cable and optical electronics to companies that make semiconductors, network testing and monitoring equipment, DC power equipment, customer premises equipment, software, and myriad other products – and would place at risk tens of thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Network neutrality regulation is an important issue for the high tech manufacturing industry. We will resist efforts to amend your bill in order to impose network neutrality regulation as it moves forward in the legislative process this Spring.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Beddow, Vice Pres. Public Affairs  
3M Company  
1425 K Street, NW Ste 300  
Washington, DC 20005

Brad E. Herr, President  
AC Data Systems, Inc.  
806 West Clearwater Loop, Ste C  
Post Falls, ID 83854

Brian Paul, Chief Financial Officer  
Actiontec Electronics, Inc.  
760 North Mary Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Jack Field, VP Global Connectivity Solutions  
ADC Telecommunications  
1187 Park Place  
Shakopee, MN 55379

Manfred Laidig, President  
BTECH Inc.  
10 Astro Place  
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Michael C. Stephens, President and CEO  
CBM of America, Inc.  
1455 W. Newport Center Drive  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Robert J. Novak, Sr. VP and COO  
Charles Industries, Ltd.  
5600 Apollo Drive  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Brad Radichel, President  
Condux International, Inc.  
145 Kingswood Road  
Mankato, MN 56002-0247

Keith Weiner, CEO  
DiamondWare, Ltd.  
4856 E. Baseline Road, Ste 101  
Mesa, AZ 85206

Robert J. Robbins, President  
Electrodata, Inc.  
23020 Miles Road  
Bedford Heights, OH 44128

William N. Pfundt, President  
General Machine Products Co., Inc.  
3111 Old Lincoln Highway  
Trevose, PA 19053-4996

Peter P. Savage, President and CEO  
Hammerhead Systems Inc.  
640 Clyde Court  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Daryl Ingalsbe, President  
Independent Technologies Inc.  
1142 Miracle Hills Drive  
Omaha, NE 68154

Dr. Benson Shen, CEO  
Lightel Technologies, Inc.  
1034 Central Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

Noam Lotan, CEO  
MRV Communications, Inc.  
20415 Nordhoff Street  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Eric A. Norland, President  
Norland Products Inc.  
2540 Route 130, Ste. 100  
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Brian N. DiLascia, Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.  
Prysmian Communications Cables and Systems  
USA, LLC  
700 Industrial Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072

John L. Vette, CEO  
SNC Manufacturing Co. Inc.  
101 West Waukau Avenue  
Oshkosh, WI 54902-7299

Paul A. Marshall, CEO  
Sunrise Telecom, Inc.  
302 Enzo Drive  
San Jose, CA 95138

Samuel D. Davis, President  
Telesync, Inc.  
5555 Oakbrook Pkwy, Ste 100  
Norcross, GA 30093

Mary Vermeer Andringa, President and CEO  
Vermeer Manufacturing Company  
1210 Vermeer Road East  
Pella, IA 50219

Peter R. McIntyre, Exec. VP Mktg and Sales  
Xecom, Inc  
374 Turquoise Street  
Milpitas, CA 95035



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 838-8143

April 10, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is writing to express our strong support of your bill, "Call Home Act of 2006," that directs the Federal Communications Commission to seek ways to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

Everyday, military members deployed or assigned unaccompanied overseas are faced with the burdens of being separated from families and loved ones. Your bill recognizes the burden these members and families encounter and takes an important step forward to reduce the costs of high phone rates.

The Military Coalition thanks you for introducing this legislation and recommends that the bill be expanded to include all members of the uniformed services. We also appreciate your leadership on issues affecting all servicemembers and their families and pledge our strong support in seeking enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(signatures enclosed)

Ronald J. Peterson  
Air Force Association

Richard M. Dean  
Air Force Sergeants Association

Patricia M. Humphrey  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

Len Williams  
American Logistics Association

James B. Davis  
AMVETS (American Veterans)

Ray S. King  
Army Aviation Assn. of America

George K. Anderson  
Assn. of Military Surgeons  
of the United States

Herman B. Lopez  
Assn. of the US Army

Sam Am  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of  
the US Public Health Service, Inc

Edward B. Smith  
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard

Michael P. Clinie  
Enlisted Association of the  
National Guard of the US

John Brown  
Fleet Reserve Assn.

Wm. M. Anderson  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Pat W. Swanson  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Mike O'Brien  
Marine Corps League

Richard H. Esau Jr  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

Ward Ryan  
Military Officers Assn. of America

W. B. Brown  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

W. M. King  
National Association for  
Uniformed Services

Stephen M. Kaper  
National Guard Assn. of the US

Dana Schmidt  
National Military Family Assn.

Milbert H. Brown  
National Order of  
Battlefield Commissions

David R. Davidson  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

J. Douglas  
Naval Reserve Assn.

John A. Anderson  
Navy League of the US

Gene Quinter  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America

James Burnett  
Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

Bernis W. Potts  
Reserve Officers Assn.

Leslie O.  
Society of Medical Consultants  
to the Armed Forces

Gary R. Peltett  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Bob King  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

Robert J. Walker  
United Armed Forces Assn.

J. R. Saramastro  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

Raymond A. Bell  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

Robert D. Bell  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

Edna J. Hills  
Veterans' Widows International  
Network, Inc.



## ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

General Gordon R. Sullivan  
United States Army (Ret.)  
President

6 April 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of over 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to express our strong support of your bill, "Call Home Act of 2006," that directs the Federal Communications Commission to seek ways to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

Everyday, military members deployed or assigned unaccompanied overseas are faced with the burdens of being separated from families and loved ones. Your bill recognizes the burden these members and families encounter and takes an important step forward to reduce the costs of high phone rates.

AUSA thanks you for introducing this legislation and for your leadership on issues affecting all servicemembers and their families. We pledge our strong support in seeking enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN  
General, USA Retired

GRS/WBL

# The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2847 ★  
(202) 861-2700 ★



April 5, 2006

*For God and Country*

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of the 4 million members of The American Legion Family, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our support for your draft legislation entitled, The Call Home Act of 2006.

Your legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make every effort possible to reduce telephone rates for those deployed and fighting overseas in the war on terror. The bill also directs the FCC to develop new technologies, encourage foreign governments to reduce international surcharges, and help provide flexible billing for troops and their families. All of these things would help make positive improvements in the lives of our servicemembers who just want to phone home and talk to a loved one.

We support efforts to reduce telephone rates for our servicemembers stationed overseas who depend on an affordable and timely means of communication with their family and loved ones. Over a decade ago, American Legion National Commanders discovered in their visits to troops in the Balkans that our servicemembers were being charged exorbitant telephone rates to call home. The American Legion is strongly supportive of military quality of life, and frequent and timely calling home is a huge morale factor which could only pay dividends to our troops going into harm's way.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your continuous support of those on the battlefield today. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Clarence Hill, Chairman  
National Security Commission



**EANGUS**

3133 MT. VERNON AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305

[www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org)

(703) 519-3846  
FAX (703) 519-3849

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman  
The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is pleased to express our strongest support, on behalf of the Enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, for the "Call Home Act of 2006" which would authorize the FCC to take actions necessary to reduce telephone bills for all deployed service members, active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Members of the Guard and Reserve comprise over 45 percent of all U.S. personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since September 11, 2001, our nation has deployed over 525,000 Guard and Reserve members for operational missions for the Global War on Terrorism, all over the world. Unfortunately, many of these members, predominately in the junior enlisted ranks, are not be able to afford expensive calls from overseas to families or to address personal issues that increase stress on the member. All servicemembers need contact with their home areas and families for a multitude of reasons; however most Guard and Reserve member's home towns are not in the vicinity of a traditional base; therefore contact with their families is critical when deployed.

Today's guardsmen and reservists are professionals. They are the best that we have had and they are answering the call on a routine basis not envisioned during the Cold War. We need to take care of those that answer the call from our nation. If passed this benefit for members of the Guard and Reserve will provide an important tool to bolster recruitment, retention, family morale and overall readiness.

Thank you for recognizing one of the many needs of the military community. You have the support of EANGUS and our membership.

Working for America's Best!

MSG (Ret) Michael P. Cline, AUS  
Executive Director

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

---

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 5, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

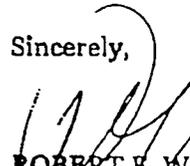
On behalf of the 2.4 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our support for your draft legislation entitled, *The Call Home Act of 2006*.

Your legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make every effort possible to reduce telephone rates for those deployed and fighting overseas in the war on terror. The bill also directs FCC to evaluate the role of new technologies, encourage foreign governments to reduce international surcharges, and help provide flexible billing for troops and their families. All of these things would help make positive improvements in the lives of our servicemembers who just want to phone home and talk to a loved one.

We believe that telephone calls and service are a lifeline for our servicemembers stationed abroad who depend on an affordable means of communication with their friends and family. To help decrease these costs in any way is the least we can do for those fighting for our freedoms and for their families who are making their own sacrifices on the home front.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your continuous support of those on the battlefield today. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. WALLACE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION

1619 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2763  
PHONE: 703.548.5800 • FAX: 703.683.3647  
E-mail: [admin@navy-reserve.org](mailto:admin@navy-reserve.org) • Home Page: [www.navy-reserve.org](http://www.navy-reserve.org)

5 April 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Stevens:

I am writing you on behalf of the members of the Naval Reserve Association, members of the Navy Reserve, their families and survivors. I'm writing to express our strongest support for The "Call Home Act of 2006" which would authorize the FCC to take actions necessary to reduce telephone bills for all deployed service members, active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Members of the Guard and Reserve comprise over 45 percent of all U.S. personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since September 11, 2001, our nation has deployed over 525,000 Guard and Reserve members for operational missions for the Global War on Terrorism, all over the world. Additionally, during any month, approximately 25 percent of the Navy Reserve force is doing some type of operational support to the fleet for operational mission requirements.

Unfortunately, many of these members, predominately in the junior enlisted ranks, are not able to afford expensive calls from overseas to families or to address personal issues that increase stress on the member. All servicemembers need contact with their home areas and families for a multitude of reasons. Most Guard and Reserve member's home towns are not in the vicinity of a traditional base; therefore, contact with their families is critical when deployed.

Today's guardsmen and reservists are professionals. They are the best that we have had and they are answering the call on a routine basis not envisioned during the Cold War. We need to take care of those that answer the call from our nation. If passed, this benefit for members of the Guard and Reserve will provide an important tool to bolster recruitment, retention, family morale and overall readiness. I look forward to working together in support of a strong and viable Navy Reserve, and all reserve components. Thank you for all your hard work on their behalf with the Call Home Act of 2006.

Sincerely,

Casey W. Coane  
RADM. USN (Ret)  
Executive Director



## The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Senator Ted Stevens, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
255 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

I am writing you on behalf of the members of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve, their families and survivors. I'm writing to express our strongest support for The "Call Home Act of 2006" which would authorize the FCC to take actions necessary to reduce telephone bills for all deployed service members, active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Members of the Guard and Reserve comprise over 45 percent of all U.S. personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since September 11, 2001, our nation has deployed over 525,000 Guard and Reserve members for operational missions for the Global War on Terrorism, all over the world. Additionally, during any month, approximately 25 percent of our Reserve Forces are doing some type of operational support to meet the country's mission requirements.

Unfortunately, many of these members, predominately in the junior enlisted ranks, are not be able to afford expensive calls from overseas to families or to address personal issues that increase stress on the member. All servicemembers need contact with their home areas and families for a multitude of reasons. Most Guard and Reserve member's home towns are not in the vicinity of a traditional base; therefore contact with their families is critical when deployed. Due to time and operation differences, it is not practicable for the families to call them and if they are able, the cost is still prohibitive.

Today's guardsmen and reservists are professionals. They are the best that we have had and they are answering the call on a routine basis not envisioned during the Cold War. We need to take care of those that answer the call from our nation. If passed this benefit for members of the Guard and Reserve will provide an important tool to bolster recruitment, retention, family morale and overall readiness. I look forward to working together in support of a strong and viable Reserve and Guard Force. Thank you for all your hard work on their behalf with the "Call Home Act of 2006."

*Dave Davidson*

David R. Davidson  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)  
Executive Director

6703 Farragut Ave. Falls Church, VA 22042 703-534-1329 neraexec@nera.org



*Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.*

540 N. Lombardy St. • Arlington, VA 22203-1060 • (703) 527-7706

April 5, 2006

Mr. Harry Wingo  
 Counsel  
 Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
 United States Senate  
 255 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 Tel: 202-224-3061  
 Fax: 202-224-1259

Dear Mr. Wingo:

On behalf of Gold Star Wives of America, I'm writing to support the "Call Home Act of 2006" which directs the FCC to seek to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

Gold Star Wives has a chat-room for new widows of the Iraq and Afghanistan Conflict. Our survivors of the Global War on Terrorism know first hand how important it is to have frequent contact with their loved ones deployed overseas. With reduced phone rates for those serving overseas, it would certainly help permit more frequent phone calls to keep in touch with loved ones. It would be a great morale booster.

Thank you for this bill, and if we can help in anyway, please don't hesitate to contact me. Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is a member of The Military Coalition.

Sincerely,

Rose Lee  
 Chair, Legislative Committee  
 Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.  
 703-527-7706  
 Rlee540@aol.com



**Contact:**

Frank DeMaria

fdemaria@brunswickgroup.com

Erin Moore

emoore@brunswickgroup.com

Brunswick Group

212 333 3810

For Immediate Release

**MSV Praises Lawmakers on Satellite Communications Provisions of Senate Telecom Bill in Advance of Emergencies**

Reston, VA – Mobile Satellite Ventures, L.P. (MSV) today praised the efforts of Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), for introducing the Communications, Consumer's Choice and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S.2686) last week. The draft legislation allocates funds for a strategic technology reserve through which equipment is pre-positioned or secured in advance for use in an emergency or major disaster.

"The ability of emergency responders to have access to communications services in times of emergency is critical," said Alexander H. Good, MSV's Vice Chairman and CEO. "We fully support the efforts of Senators Stevens and Inouye and ask the House to consider similar legislation to ensure the availability of communications for our nation's emergency responders."

MSV believes that this legislation will ensure that emergency responders have access to funding to ensure access to its current and next-generation satellite services.

"It is imperative that our emergency responders have access to the communications equipment and services they need in case of emergencies. By providing that adequate funding is available for pre-positioning of critical satellite equipment, the Senate is taking the lead in ensuring the safety of all Americans," said Jim Corry, Vice President of Government Solutions. Corry added that MSV's next generation integrated satellite-terrestrial network, which is anticipated to be available as early as 2009, "will further help in the preparedness of our first responders by providing ubiquitous, reliable, fully interoperable access to an integrated terrestrial-satellite network on a cost-effective basis."

**About Mobile Satellite Ventures**

Mobile Satellite Ventures is developing the next generation hybrid wireless network that will use a powerful satellite constellation working in unison with

MSV's patented ancillary terrestrial component (ATC) technology to deliver seamless wireless services to end-users over standard wireless devices.

MSV is North America's premier provider of mobile satellite communications. Delivering service since 1996, MSV offers customers a wide choice of wireless data, voice, fax and dispatch radio services via its two MSAT satellites. MSV provides superior capacity and reliability for customers across North America, northern South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Hawaii and in coastal waters.

The MSV investor group includes Motient Corporation (Pink Sheets: MNCP), SkyTerra Communications (OTC: SKYT), TMI Communications, Columbia Capital, and Spectrum Equity Investors.

MSV has offices in Reston, Va., and Ottawa, On. For more information, visit MSV online at [www.msvlp.com](http://www.msvlp.com).

###