

Cox Communications

United States Senate Communications, Technology and Internet Subcommittee

Field Hearing Testimony

Little Rock, Arkansas

August 19, 2013

Good morning Mr. Chairman. Again, I'm Len Pitcock, Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications here in Arkansas.

Cox Communications is the state's largest traditional cable provider offering a variety of products to our residential and business customers. Our footprint consists of a service area primarily covering the northwest corner of the state. Today we offer video services, broadband and telephone to our Arkansas customers and in the near future, will likely offer home security services as well.

Cox, and almost all of the other providers here today, offer a prime example of the convergence in technology found in the market. As the Telecommunications Act of 1996 closes in on almost its 18th year as the primary regulatory framework for our industry, we now see consumers gaining the full benefit of the act.

It wasn't that long ago when Cox customers were offered a handful of channels in an analog-only format and 56k modems. Today, we and others are using our advanced fiber-rich networks to deliver any number of competitive products giving consumers a wide array of choices for video, Internet and telephone. I should mention it's been just 7 years since we began offering telephony in Arkansas. Today, we are the 4th largest telephone provider in the state and the largest among all competitive local exchange carriers.

These advancements are made possible wholly from the investment of private capital into our business. Today Cox Communications offers almost 500 analog, digital and high definition channels in Arkansas, 150 megs downstream broadband speed to every customer and phone service in almost every community we serve.

Government subsidized competition has always been a concern for the entire communications industry. As federal and state lawmakers continue efforts to address last-mile broadband in America, we would again urge them (and you) to carefully consider the

investments made by companies like Cox in the marketplace today before allowing government dollars to compete directly with those of us that have taken the financial risk.

In 2010, Arkansas was found to be the most competitive state in the country for broadband services. While we recognize government-funded efforts to address last mile broadband areas are needed and appropriate in areas where no service is available, government should focus its efforts in Arkansas and around the country on increasing broadband adoption through existing broadband providers rather than use taxpayer dollars to fund network construction and overbuilds in areas where broadband service is already available..

Thank you Mr. Chairman.