



Testimony in Support of HB2326

**Presented By: John J. Federico
President of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association**

Senate Commerce Committee

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Madame Chair & Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association (KCTA) in support of HB2326.

A recent unfavorable ruling by the Kansas Corporation Commission has certainly intensified our interest in this particular legislation. In general, the KCTA believes that in the fast-changing, highly competitive telecommunications industry, the consumer benefits most from a “light” regulatory touch.

As such, we stand in support of the amended HB2326. The negotiated language in the bill satisfies the concerns on our members and incorporates some language from another telecommunications bill (HB2201), specifically the language found in (c) (3) on page 1 of HB2326. The above-mentioned language addresses concerns related to “interconnection agreements” and its’ inclusion in the VoIP bill is critically important to not only certain telecommunication providers but also to your constituents/consumers.

At one point we were asked “why the cable industry had such a keen interest in *telecommunications* legislation?” As we hope you can appreciate, the telecommunication industry as a whole, and the intensity of the competition, has changed dramatically over the years. The cable industry has gone well-beyond just offering video products and services. Through innovation and significant private capital investment, the cable industry now offers state of the art telecommunication services throughout Kansas that includes; video, video on demand, telephony and of course broadband. As such, ANY legislation that impacts the regulation of our member companies, or those of our competitors, is of great concern to the KCTA.

Thank you for the opportunity to address your Committee Madame Chair and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.