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Senate Utilities Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Coleen Jennison and thank you for the opportunity to present information to you as both the Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications and the current Chairperson of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association (KCTA). The KCTA lobbying team is comprised of John Federico (who serves as the Association's President) and his team, Capitol Strategies, Dan Murray and Hein Governmental Consulting.

The KCTA was founded in 1970 to represent the cable industry, which began as a way to bring television to homes in remote areas that were unable to receive conventional over-the-air broadcast signals. Over the years, KCTA has provided its member companies with a single, unified voice on issues affecting the cable and telecommunications industry in Kansas. KCTA is proud of the role the cable industry has played in development of competition for video, high-speed Internet and telephone services in Kansas.

Since 1996, the cable industry has invested over \$230B in capital infrastructure. Our high speed internet product is available to 93% of US Households and the top tier speeds for cable's broadband product increase 50% per year on average.

Mr. Chairman, to reinforce the fact that the cable industry is investing in both urban AND rural communities across Kansas, I'll use as an example, Eagle Communications, one of our longest serving KCTA Members. Eagle is an employee-owned cable company based in Hays, KS. They offer advanced telecommunication services in over 30 communities in western Kansas, and their employees are deeply involved in the communities they serve. They are competing for customers, often times against heavily government-subsidized competition, in towns with a population as little as 160 residents. Yet their investment in infrastructure upgrades, to stay competitive and respond to customer demand, is over \$2M annually.

Cox serves 91 urban and rural communities in Kansas. To give you some idea of our geography Cox serves Wichita, Topeka, Manhattan, Garden City, Dodge City, Hutchinson, El Dorado, Great Bend and numerous communities in between. 100% of our customers, including those in Gas, Kansas, (pop. 540) are served with state-of-the-art broadband technology.



In harmony with the Cox Conserves eco-friendly program, we are proud to print on Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper.

While we offer video, telephone, home security and other services, the service that generates the most conversation today is of course broadband. Cox Communications is not new to this GIG discussion; in fact our business customers have been able to access up to 10G since 2007. That holds true for ALL of our business customers. Urban or rural. And not in selected neighborhoods.

Cox has consistently and aggressively increased broadband speeds for years – making our most popular tier (50Mbps/5Mbps) more than 1000 percent faster over the past 13 years alone. Our residential customers in Kansas currently have accessibility to speeds ranging from 1Mbps up to 150 Mbps. As for residential subscribers having access to 1G, Cox Communications has recently begun deploying our GIGABLAST service in Phoenix, Omaha and Las Vegas. Cox is committed to bringing the choice of gigabit internet services to all of our customers, not just a select few, by the end of 2016.

The conversations at both the state and federal level regarding broadband deployment and adoption, bridging the digital divide and government regulation are important conversations to have. It is imperative that thoughtful consideration occur so as not to stifle the investments that are being made in the state and across the nation. Cox Communications and the member companies of the KCTA continue to invest significantly to provide our communities communications infrastructure second to none.