

HB 2201

It is time to update Kansas' communications laws with sensible, forward-looking policy that will benefit all Kansas consumers and communications companies.

HB 2201, a telcom coalition bill, will reduce fees paid by consumers, modernize telecommunications policy for competitive providers, and provide stability for price cap and rate-of-return providers. Members of the telecom coalition are: the Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Companies, CenturyLink, and AT&T.

- Lowers monthly KUSF fees for Kansas voice communication customers by reducing the KUSF approximately \$9.4M in year one and millions more in subsequent years
- Reduces unnecessary regulation thereby creating a more favorable business climate for competitive companies to invest in advanced networks. AT&T has already announced a \$14 billion initiative that will cover 99% of AT&T customer locations in the country with IP broadband.
- Establishes a glide path and stability for rural regulated companies as the industry shifts to broadband and as the FCC completes federal regulatory reform

Specifically, for competitive telecommunications carriers like AT&T, the bill:

- Modernizes communication policy by removing barriers to true competition and treating all competitive companies equally
- Examples of modernization:
 - Eliminates the annual KUSF subsidy given to AT&T (\$5.2 million) but removes the obligation that requires AT&T to provide a traditional landline to any customer anywhere in its geographic territories. Today, only AT&T has this requirement in its geographic territories.
 - Eliminates the need to file tariffs and makes participation in the Lifeline Service Program optional
 - Reduces other unnecessary regulations that apply to AT&T and other competitive companies in the state. For example, a law designed in 1996, requires competitive companies to record, track and report set service metrics. These rules are unnecessary in today's highly competitive marketplace where customers move freely among numerous different providers and technologies and cause the competitive companies to expend resources on paperwork and filing.

Modernizing Kansas Policy to Lower Fees, Spur Investment and Grow the Economy