

# KCTA

Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association

815 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Second Floor  
Topeka, Kansas 66612 • (785) 290-0018

## Testimony in Opposition To SB 120

**John J. Federico, JD**  
**On Behalf of the**  
**Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association**

**Senate Utilities Committee**  
**February 16, 2005**

The Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association respectfully requests that you vote NO on SB 120. The KCTA does not endorse additional regulation on any of its competitors but does advocate that additional factors be carefully considered before removing *existing* regulation, put in place to alleviate barriers to market for telecommunication competitors.

No one can argue that competition benefits the consumer. But in order to have competition, you need competitors. The KCTA fears that the passage of SB 120 would create a realistic scenario whereby the ILEC's, who currently enjoy a dominate share of the Kansas telephone market, would be in a position to "price out" other competitors trying to offer competitive services.

Before voting on SB 120, the KCTA respectfully asks the Committee to consider whether they know the extent of what true facilities based competition exists today? Or whether they can predict with accuracy the impact that price deregulation would have on the rural parts of the state serviced by SBC & Sprint? Or why the telecommunications industry would benefit from simply addressing the price-deregulation component of the industry and not: inequities of an unbalanced telecommunications tax structure; or those problems related to an inconsistent right of way/easement use agreements.

It is worth repeating that the KCTA does not stand before you advocating for additional regulation or government intervention. We do however favor that careful consideration be given to the negative impact on increased competition by being the first state in the country to pass this type of "de-reg" legislation. We do however strongly support that before any de-regulation bill be passed by this legislature, that an in-depth, comprehensive legislative and regulatory study be done to measure with a high degree of accuracy the true state of telephone competition in the state and the aforementioned inequities of other aspects of the telecommunications regulatory and tax environment.

**Please Vote No on SB 120**