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Senate Commerce Committee
March 7, 2007
Network Consolidation and Feasibility Study

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the committee. This morning I will introduce members of the *Calence* network design team who have worked with KanWIN, KanREN, and Kan-ed to produce an in-depth analysis of the three network's potential for consolidation, along with specific recommendations coming out of that study as requested by the Oversight Committee on December 4, 2006. Your packets include copies of the full *Calence* report. I have also provided you with a copy of a letter to Chairwoman Brownlee about one district's experience with getting connected to the Kan-ed network.

In addition, we have provided you with draft copies of recommended amendments to current statutory language that will eliminate barriers to accomplishing what is recommended in the feasibility study, again as requested by the Oversight Committee.

Other legislation pending before the Senate and the House are Senate Bill 148, and House Bill 2194. Together, the bills introduce amendments to the Kan-ed statute that would allow for connection to the Kan-ed network by the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Kan-ed staff agrees that these amendments bring appropriate technologies such as Interactive Distance Learning and Video Conferencing to these groups. Further, we believe they can benefit not only from the technology, but from the collaborative relationships that can be formed with our current constituents that the technology makes possible.

I have found in my discussions with legislators that there are competing versions about what Kan-ed's mission is. As a consequence, I want to re-state that mission and how Kan-ed moves the network along that path.

The Kan-ed mission is to *support Libraries, K-12 Schools, and Higher Education and Hospitals by assisting with access to commercial Internet resources, providing access to private network resources for distance learning and applications, and providing access to other Internet technologies and technology services.* We do that by providing or assisting with access to broadband by all members of Kan-ed; and access to the Kan-ed backbone (Intranet) by those schools, hospitals, and libraries wishing to have such access (connectivity).

At this time it is my pleasure to introduce the Calence Team. They are represented this morning by Terence Ford, John Casebeer, and Scott Shoemaker. We will take questions at the conclusion of the report.