

## **Background S 2686 in U.S. Senate**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation is scheduled to vote on June 27 on the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S.2686). As crafted, the bill allows providers of video (cable) services to use the public rights-of-way in a community but pick and choose which neighborhoods they wish to serve while bypassing all others completely. This represents a radical departure from this Committee's commitment to universal service.

As a result, NATOA, NLC, NACo, USCM and GFOA are all asking you to contact your Senators and urge them to support the video services build-out amendment sponsored by Senators John F. Kerry and Barbara Boxer and the anti-redlining and build-out amendments by Senator Daniel K. Inouye. These amendments would require service to all communities within a reasonable period of time.

### OPPOSITION NEEDED ON AMENDMENTS HARMFUL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Please express opposition to any amendments that strips local authority to franchise the use of their rights-of-way for video services and gives that authority to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C., limits the benefits of broadband-video competition to a few well-to-do neighborhoods, undermines the ability of local governments to protect consumers and manage public rights-of-way, preempts local telecom taxing authority, and makes permanent the moratorium on Internet access taxes. Specifically, we urge you to oppose:

- \* Senator John McCain's Amendments (Franchise Fee Cap Reduced from 5% to 3%; Ban on All Cell Phone Specific Taxes)
- \* Senator John Ensign's Amendments (Reduces PEG Funding; Impedes Local Government Rights-of-Way Control and Authority)
- \* Senator Jim DeMint's Amendments (Limits PEG Support and Places New Hurdles on Franchise Process)
- \* Senator George Allen's Amendment (Internet Tax Freedom - Makes Permanent the Moratorium on Internet Access Taxes)

Your urgent action is needed. Please contact your Senators. Simply dial the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask for your Senator's office.

If you have questions, please contact NATOA Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at (703) 519-8035 or by e-mail at [lbeaty@natoa.org](mailto:lbeaty@natoa.org).