



February 14, 2018 – HB 2701

Good morning Chairman Seiwert and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing the State Independent Telephone Association of Kansas (SITA) to submit this neutral written testimony on House Bill 2701 regarding the establishment of a broadband task force.

Our members truly recognize the necessity and importance of a robust, effective, scalable broadband network. We have worked hard over the years to fulfill the legislature’s stated public policy of the great state of Kansas, to “ensure that every Kansan will have access to a first class telecommunications infrastructure that provides excellent services at an affordable price.”

K.S.A. 66-2001(a). On a daily basis, we “promote consumer access to a full range of telecommunications services, including advanced telecommunications services that are comparable in urban and rural areas throughout the state.” K.S.A. 66-2001(c).

Rural telecommunications companies provide vital service in the most rural areas of the state and because we live and work in the communities we serve, we know what it takes to “advance the development of a statewide telecommunications network infrastructure that is capable of supporting applications, such as public safety, telemedicine, services for persons with special needs, distance learning, public library services, access to internet providers, and others.” K.S.A. 66-2001(d). We appreciate the opportunity to have a seat at the table and continue the conversation and work towards the legislature’s public policy goals and objectives.