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Testimony on HB2701

NEUTRAL

House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Chairman Seiwert and Members of the Committee:

I write today regarding HB2701, a bill that would establish a statewide broadband expansion task force.

We've seen several proposals brought forth to this committee with the underlying goal of fostering broadband deployment and promoting competition. AT&T shares these goals and welcomes the opportunity to work with stakeholders and policymakers at all levels on ways to:

- Expand broadband infrastructure and increase statewide access to broadband services;
- Remove barriers that may hinder deployment of broadband infrastructure or access to broadband services;
- Enable the creation and deployment of new advanced communication technologies; and,
- Prioritize the expansion of broadband services first to unserved areas of the state and then to underserved areas of the state.

As the largest investor of private capital in the country, AT&T understands the significant investments required to bring high-speed internet access to all Kansans. However, we also recognize that significant challenges remain – especially in rural areas. In order to achieve a goal of universal internet access, it will take the public and private sector working together to maximize investment in broadband deployment.

We remain committed to working with you and other interested stakeholders on ways to ensure all households across Kansas – and across the country – can participate in the internet's educational, health care, civic and commercial opportunities.

AT&T is neutral on HB2701. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Reynolds
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