



Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association

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Testimony of Anne Spiess
on behalf of the
Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association (KTIA)
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
February 8, 2005

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Anne Spiess and I am President of the Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association (KTIA). I am here today to give the Committee a brief overview of KTIA.

KTIA is a trade association that serves the Kansas telecommunications industry by representing large and small companies that provide local telephone service, long distance, wireless as well as firms and individuals who provide hard goods and consulting services to support the industry. KTIA's members include 21 small telephone companies in Kansas and our large company members are SBC, Sprint, Sprint PCS, AT&T, MCI and ALLTEL.

KTIA was founded in 1900 and has had several name changes along the way. Today, the Association represents the needs and concerns of its members at both the state and national levels and strives to provide its members with many opportunities to network.

Besides our trade association responsibilities, KTIA is the administrator for two important Kansas programs that ensure telecommunications services are available to Kansans with special needs.

First, is the Kansas Relay Service, Inc. (KRSI) a not-for-profit corporation that was formed to handle the financial and administrative responsibilities of the relay service contract in Kansas. The actual on-site operation of the Kansas Relay Center in Lawrence, Kansas is overseen by SBC who was awarded the contract to provide relay services to the people of Kansas.

The second program is the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) which is a telecommunications equipment distribution program. The purpose of TAP is to provide specialized equipment to Kansans with disabilities or impairments in order to access basic home telecommunications services.

Both programs are funded pursuant to state law through the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) and are regulated by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). KRSI

was begun in 1990 with Kansas being one of the first 10 states in the Union to offer relay to its citizens. TAP was started on January 24, 1997.

I have asked David Rosenthal of SBC to give you a brief overview of the Kansas Relay Center. In addition, our KRSI/TAP staff members Joyce Hightower and Sally Fox are going to give you a few more details on the TAP program.

I appreciate the opportunity to present to you today. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of further assistance to you.

Also, just a reminder the KTIA hosts a legislative dinner which is held in honor of all legislators and Utilities Committee staff. This year it will be held on Thursday, March 10th. Please be sure to RSVP by calling our office at 234-0307. We look forward to seeing you there!

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