

August 4, 2005

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln

355 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Lincoln,

I was delighted to learn of your July 26, 2005, letter to the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee calling for an update of the nation's telecommunications laws.

As President of Consumers for Cable Choice, Inc., a national advocacy organization based in Indianapolis, I have been working for the past few months to encourage your colleagues to act quickly on meaningful updates to our telecommunications laws.

You may find it helpful to know that your colleague, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, in also calling for telecommunications reform, cited a study commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that said unleashing market-based competition in today's communications sector could bring 212,000 new jobs and \$634 billion in GDP growth over the next five years alone.

We wholeheartedly agree with you that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 assumed a world that soon ceased to exist. American consumers deserve laws that reflect the current state of technology, and they deserve competitive choice in every marketplace including cable television.

The membership of Consumers for Cable Choice believe a strong majority of American consumers trust that competition in the cable television industry will result in better quality programming, better customer service and better prices. We are certain they want Congress to jumpstart the process.

Beyond the economic benefits, meaningful and fair telecommunications reform would result in benefits for the 54 million Americans with disabilities. Super high speed video services, including interactive TV, telemedicine, and real-time sign language interpretation, will improve lives just as TDD devices enabled people with hearing disabilities to communicate over the telephone. Those services won't likely be made available without competition in the industry.

Thank you for providing the strength of your voice to the call for competition.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Johnson

317-506-7348