

July 27, 2005

The Honorable Mike Pence

426 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pence,

I was delighted to see your July 16, 2005, letter calling for an update of the nation's telecommunications laws. I read it on Monday, July 18, on the TownHall.com Web site.

As Executive Director of Consumers for Cable Choice, Inc., a national advocacy organization based in Indianapolis, I have been working to encourage your colleagues to act quickly on meaningful updates to telecommunications laws for the very reasons you outlined in your letter. In addition to the 212,000 new jobs and \$634 billion GDP growth over the next five years that you cite, updating these laws will unleash an unbelievable amount of technological innovations that only competition can create. Like other technology, we know the costs for consumers will fall as technology advances.

We 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.

Yesterday, Consumers for Cable Choice joined with three disability advocacy groups to help spur competition in the cable industry as means to expanding the technology available to 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.

After our news release was issued, we received this, unsolicited e-mail from Jeff Reeding, who operates Linkable.org from his home in Sarasota, Fla: "I have comcast cable and they charge almost \$100 per month for just basic cable and internet. I can't afford the pay channels living on a disability income. It would be great if disabled people could get a break on this. Most, like myself, spend most of their time at home (sic)."

This truly is a national issue of great concern to all consumers. Thank you for providing an additional voice to the call for competition.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Johnson

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