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Senate Utilities Committee
Coleen Jennison
Director of Government Affairs
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Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Coleen Jennison, Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications.

It would be an understatement to say there was much negotiation on the House side prior to passage of this bill. As drafted, Cox is neutral on HB 2201.

Cox Communications was created with private capital in an entrepreneurial spirit that is familiar to many Kansas companies. Competing for market share is a core business practice we embrace. Our experience with competition has taught us that regulation only for regulations' sake eventually impacts market conditions and can create less demand for a meaningful product.

In 2005, I was asked to present Cox's thoughts on competition to the House Utilities Committee. Cox had only been providing telephone service in Kansas for two years. At that time we believed the notion that competition had worked in Kansas was slightly premature. Much has changed in the years since. Our significant facilities-based investment in Kansas has not changed. Cox continues to invest \$25 million annually to upgrade and maintain our infrastructure. We are committed to protecting that investment, because ultimately it benefits the consumer by ensuring continued robust competition in the telecommunications marketplace.

The component of this bill that was significant for Cox was that of interconnection. Interconnection is specifically defined (47 C.F.R. 51.5) as "the linking of two networks for the mutual exchange of traffic." As we move toward a completely deregulated marketplace, the need may still exist for a third party to set the parameters in instances of disagreement where the free market and standard negotiations are not successful. This is necessary to protect our customer's ability to connect with friends and family regardless of provider.

While interconnection is only one component of this bill, it is significant for our company. Thank you again Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.



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