



NEWS RELEASE

National Cable & Telecommunications Association
www.ncta.com | Phone: (202) 222-2300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2014

Statement of NCTA Regarding the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 (H.R. 5728)

"We applaud the efforts of House Chairmen Upton and Walden, Senate Chairman Rockefeller, House Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo and Senate Ranking Member Thune who have worked together to craft bipartisan legislation that advances targeted video reforms, including the extension of expiring provisions that will help affected satellite consumers continue to receive their broadcast signals. We are especially pleased that the legislation also sunsets the FCC's Integration Ban rule – an unnecessary technology mandate that violates principles of competitive neutrality and forces cable customers leasing set-top boxes to bear added costs and higher energy use for no additional benefit. In this way, the bill rightly recognizes that ongoing support for retail devices is not advanced by rules that impose costs on consumers who elect to lease equipment. Finally, we welcome congressional attention to address potential anticompetitive harm negotiations, by barring coordination in retransmission consent negotiations among local broadcast stations that are not commonly owned. We urge the Congress to act on this must pass legislation."

###

NCTA is the principal trade association for the U.S. cable industry, representing cable operators serving more than 90 percent of the nation's cable television households and more than 200 cable program networks. The cable industry is the nation's largest broadband provider of high-speed Internet access, serving more than 54 million customers, after investing \$210 billion since 1996 to build two-way interactive networks with fiber optic technology. Cable companies also provide state-of-the-art digital telephone service to more than 28 million American consumers.