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| **cid:image001.jpg@01D0567A.7191E510** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  March 18, 2015         Contact:  Neal Patel (Heller) 202-224-6244  Julia Krahe (Klobuchar) 202-224-3244  Charles Stewart (Eshoo) 202-225-8104  Jordan Haverly (Shimkus) 202-225-5271  Matt Dinkel (Doyle) 202-225-2135 |

**Key Bipartisan, Bicameral FCC Legislation Recently Introduced**

*U.S. Senators Heller and Klobuchar Team with U.S. Reps. Eshoo, Shimkus, and Doyle to Introduce Bill on Both Sides of Hill*

**(Washington, DC)** - U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) joined with U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA), John Shimkus (R-IL), and Mike Doyle (D-PA) to introduce the Federal Communications Commission Collaboration Act of 2015, legislation that is both bipartisan and bicameral. The purpose of the legislation is to provide for a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to meet for collaborative discussions so long as they disclose such meetings within two business days and comply with Office of General Counsel Oversight.

“Provided it is transparent, everyone agrees members of the FCC should be able to collaborate much more than current law provides. That is why bipartisan and bicameral support exists for this measure,” **stated Senator Heller.** “The legislation we are proposing achieves these purposes and allows for the FCC to operate more efficiently. I’m proud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both chambers of Congress are joining the effort.”

“Boosting collaboration at the FCC will help it keep pace with the dynamic and fast-changing telecommunications industry, but rules currently on the books are hamstringing the agency and stifling discussions among Commissioners,” **Senator Klobuchar said.** “This commonsense, bipartisan bill will make important changes at the FCC and encourage increased dialogue so that it is effectively able to address the full range of communications policy challenges it’s facing.”

“The FCC has huge issues to tackle, representing some of the nation’s most pressing communications challenges, yet the current ‘Sunshine’ Rule restricts Commissioners from collaborating freely and effectively,” **said Representative Anna Eshoo.** “Simple collaboration, discussion of issues, and shared expertise outside an official setting are essential in order for the Commission to keep up with the rapidly changing telecommunications landscape.”

“Expecting the FCC to fulfill its mission without allowing the commissioners to have an open dialogue is a set up for disappointment and delay,” **said Representative John Shimkus.** “Allowing for greater interaction among the commissioners would enable the FCC to more efficiently carry out its responsibilities and more effectively consider the costs and benefits of proposed regulations.”

**Representative Doyle added,** “We all agree that it makes sense for members of the FCC to collaborate, provided the discussion is transparent to the public. This bill will help the FCC operate in a more efficient manner without sacrificing transparency. I am pleased to join my colleagues Representatives Shimkus and Eshoo and Senators Heller and Klobuchar in reintroducing the FCC Collaboration Act.”

Brief Background:

Ever since the Government in Sunshine Act of 1997 passed, stakeholders have called on Congress to adopt measures that allow agency officials to conduct private meetings so long as there were safeguards in place. Under this bill, three or more Commissioners may meet in a closed door meeting with three members of a Federal-State Joint Board so long as the meeting is: bipartisan, no official action is taken, no outside parties are present, and an attorney from the FCC’s Office of General Counsel is present to monitor the deliberations and disclose a summary of those discussions within 2 business days of such a meeting.

The FCC Collaboration Act of 2015 modifies the “Sunshine” rule to promote collaboration between commissioners and streamline decision making.

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