|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich |
| June 11, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |

**Senators Heller and Schatz Bipartisan Bill on FCC Passes Senate Unanimously****(Washington, DC)**– Recently, legislation U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced, “the FCC Consolidated Reports Act of 2015,” S. 253, unanimously passed the U.S. Senate. The legislation was cosponsored by Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI). “I am proud to see this legislation pass the Senate after working to come to a consensus and am hopeful the House of Representatives will pass our bipartisan Senate bill. A centralized and consolidated report from the FCC will ensure Members are provided key information every Congress on competition in voice, video, and data delivery, while also eliminating outdated reports. We simply cannot move on a broad telecommunications rewrite without a clear picture of where the market is working and where potential failures exist, which this report will provide,” **said Senator Heller.** **Senator Heller continued,** “Ultimately, it is good government bills like S. 253 that will create government efficiency and ensure Congress is better informed and equipped to enact policies increasing competition and empowering consumers. I would also like to thank my colleague, Senator Schatz, for his effort on this legislation, as well as Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson for their work on this bill in Committee.”“This is an important step in our efforts to support the FCC’s ongoing work,” **said Senator Schatz.** “Consolidated reporting will help streamline some FCC reporting requirements and saves resources while ensuring transparency - which helps us protect consumers and gauge the competitive telecom landscape. More broadly this bill also shows that with every Member’s active involvement and with Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson’s leadership the Committee can find other opportunities to reach consensus on a range of important issues before it this Congress.”Below is a summary of the FCC Consolidated Reports legislation:S. 253, the FCC Consolidated Reports Act of 2015, is a good government bill that consolidates the report the FCC provides regarding competition in voice, video, and data delivery.In addition, the legislation repeals outdated reports that are no longer necessary.With this legislation, every member of the relevant committees will get one report at the start of a new Congress to assist in assessing whether or not changes to laws are necessary to promote competition.Specifically S. 253 will:* Assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile services, multichannel video programming distributors, broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communication services.
* Assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability regardless of the technology used for such deployment, including whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion.
* Assess whether laws, regulations, or regulatory practices pose a barrier to competitive entry in to the communications marketplace that were identified through assessments previously outlined.
* Describe the agenda for the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through assessments previously outlined.

###http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png |