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NEWS RELEASE

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WSTA Supports Legislative Efforts to Streamline Video Franchise Process

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA) congratulates Rep. Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon) and Sen. Jeff Plale (D-South Milwaukee) for their work and commitment to addressing the outdated regulations that govern the telecommunications industry in Wisconsin. According to William Esbeck, WSTA Executive Director, Assembly Bill 207 and Senate Bill 107 – Video Competition Acts – accurately identify the need to update the regulations governing the increasingly competitive cable television marketplace.

“By streamlining the video franchising process these bills would benefit consumers, encourage investment, allow the marketplace to determine the winners, and keep pace with the reality of advancements in technology,” said Esbeck. “We applaud the efforts of Rep. Montgomery and Sen. Plale to foster more competition in Wisconsin through a streamlined video franchising process.”

This change would be an important first step toward improved regulatory parity. Consumers also stand to benefit from revisions to laws that govern the other telecommunications service we all use everyday. WSTA would like to thank Rep. Montgomery, Sen. Plale and other lawmakers who have demonstrated their commitment to continue working on separate legislation that would update additional outdated telecommunications statutes.

WSTA is a Madison-based trade organization representing all 83 local telephone companies, 25 of the state’s Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and 10 of the state’s wireless carriers.

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