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ACU Applauds Senator Ensign's Leadership on Telecommunications Reform

Conservatives say Ensign's bill is a step in the right direction for restoring our nation's global competitiveness

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American Conservative Union, the nation's oldest and largest Conservative grassroots organization, today applauded Senator John Ensign who chairs the Senate "High Tech" Task Force. Government regulation frustrates innovation, does not work, and is not necessary in the current highly competitive telecom marketplace. Senator Ensign's bill to update our nation's telecommunications will help eliminate cumbersome and unnecessary federal regulations. Senator Ensign will introduce the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act this morning at a press conference.

"Technology is changing the way people communicate and the most rapid change is the least regulated markets – wireless and broadband," said American Conservative Union Vice President Bill Lauderback. "Modernization of our telecom laws will restore America's competitive edge, stimulate economic growth, and create thousands of good jobs, ACU commends Senator Ensign for leading the charge on this effort."

Comprehensive telecom reform must ensure that consumers, not government regulators, make decisions on what products and services they want to purchase and from whom they want to purchase them. The convergence of voice, video and data services must not be deterred by a regulatory regime appropriate for the railroad monopolies of the 19th century.

In today's environment of vigorous cross platform competition – where cable companies are offering VoIP service and phone companies are moving into video, for example – we need comprehensive reform that allow consumers to select the technologies and services to best meet their needs. We don't need government to make those decisions for us.

"Conservatives hail Senator Ensign's efforts; he should be commended for leading the charge to remove obstacles for greater consumer choice and replace them with a framework unleash the full potential for increased investment and economic growth of the telecommunications sector of our economy," said Lauderback. **"The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act may be the single most deregulatory piece of telecommunications legislation ever introduced."**

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