

The Enterprise

Letters to the Editor

Old regulations need changing

February 10, 2005

Dear Editor:

How long are we going to set back and let lifeless rules dictate what we as consumers choose to purchase? Well, we have been since 1997, the year that the Telecommunication Act of 1996 became outdated. This does nothing to spur free market ideology or induce growth in our state's small communities. It also handcuffs us at first responders.

These regulations hold us (fire fighters, police offices, paramedics) back from excelling in certain areas of our duties. We never want to second-guess our equipment, especially during times of emergency.

In Louisiana, the citizens should come before all. As a first responder and a leader in my field, I know the better a service industry is, such as communications, the more we can protect the lives of those who are entrusted to us. Every form of communications is vital to life protection and public service. When more companies can enter and compete in the market, the integrity of the industry will be challenged. This in turn will assure that the products we purchase will be at the level of efficiency that we demand.

Louisiana and the rest of America should know about this problem. If we can lead the way in changing the face of telecommunications, we will have spared our children from one less concern. We are in the 21st century, yet we are governed by what some could call a "Hammurabi's Code" dealing with telecommunications. It was great for a time - a short time. Now we must look to the future and plan accordingly.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is a prime example of a great idea that becomes outdated due to our culture's ever-changing wants and needs. These regulations must be changed in order to be the best at what we do and help other businesses and professional fields be at the top of their game.

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