

PFF's Randolph May Commends Telecom Bill *May Observes Act Does Not Address Universal Service Reform*

July 27, 2005

WASHINGTON D.C. - Senator John Ensign (R-Nevada), Chairman of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force and Chairman of Senate Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness, today introduced the Broadband Consumer Choice Act of 2005. The statement below can be attributed to Randolph J. May, Senior Fellow and Director of Communications Policy Studies at The Progress & Freedom Foundation.

"Senator Ensign has produced the most deregulatory communications bill ever introduced in Congress, and, commendably so, in light of the vast marketplace changes that have occurred since passage of the 1996 Act. It is based on a fundamental premise that competition should replace almost all traditional economic regulation of the telecommunications industry. It doesn't deal with the thorny issue of Universal Service reform, though. Ultimately, reform of the universal service regime to direct the subsidies in a more targeted fashion to those who really need them should be part of a comprehensive new Act."

May will be available for comment to address the Broadband Consumer Choice Act and related issues.

This past June, Chairman Ensign addressed PFF's Digital Age Communications Act (DACA) Regulatory Framework Working Group, which is co-chaired by May, at an event held for the public release of its first [Working Group Draft Document](#). PFF launched the [Digital Age Communications Act \(DACA\)](#) in February with the intent of providing guidance for regulators and legislators on how to address regulatory issues in an era of competing digital services and platforms. In January, PFF also released [The Myths and Realities of Universal Service: Revisiting the Justification for the Current Subsidy Structure](#), co-authored by May.