

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REFORM OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION ACT

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, when I last addressed the House concerning H.R. 3261, at Chairman BLILEY's request, I read his statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Due to my long legislative history in issues relating to the satellite industry, I believe it is necessary for me to provide some additional views as the House and Senate prepare to begin a conference aimed at reconciling differences between their respective bills.

The Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act of 1999 is an important step forward in Congress' efforts to update the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (1962 Act). I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Chairman BLILEY in reaching out to members of the Telecommunications Subcommittee to address important issues and advance the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, reform of the 1962 Act is vitally necessary, as technological innovation and marketplace competition has dramatically changed the satellite industry over the past 30 years. Indeed, the arrival and rapid advance of undersea and underground fiber-optic cable systems has forced the industry to move beyond what many policymakers have thought to be its only role: universally providing telecommunications services to broad audiences. While the industry will certainly continue to lead efforts to develop new markets, satellites are now highly sought after to provide the capacity and redundancy necessary to continue the explosion in telecommunications usage, data transmission, and e-commerce. In other words, we have now learned that not only are cable systems unable and, in some cases, unwilling to reach everyone, they may not be able to service everyone.

As the landscape of the marketplace continues to change more cable and satellite systems find themselves in direct competition for customers, and we have been forced to reconsider our assumptions regarding the average satellite services user. No longer are these users simply interested in access to services; satellite customers want exactly what other telecommunications customers want. They want choice in the marketplace. They want the option of different transmission systems. They want broadband services over the Internet. They want high quality and highly dependable services. And they want it now.

This change in consumer demand, coupled with the exponential increase in Internet usage, interactive data and direct-to-home satellite services fuels much of the growth in the satellite services industry today. The result is

a dynamic and highly competitive marketplace. How competitive? One need look no further than the chapter 11 filings of Iridium and ICO to understand that you won't be around long in this business if you're only resting on your laurels.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can make this market even better for consumers. As the conference committee moves forward, we need to ensure that legislation intending to direct the future of the satellite industry is consistent with current economics, and that it recognizes the enormous strides toward full, free and private competition that are already underway. We need to ensure that a wide range of issues are addressed in a manner that fosters even more competition, and that Congress enacts balanced legislation which offers all companies in the satellite services industry a level playing field.

I want to specifically commend Chairman BLILEY for working to improve upon H.R. 1872 in several important areas. I am particularly gratified that the House legislation has effectively ensured that private contracts negotiated between entities are safeguarded and not subject to manipulation as a result of new legislation.

We also need to be sensitive to the fact that this bill is necessary to accommodate a commercial transaction between two companies that have already received regulatory approval for their merger. In this regard we should work to ensure that any action of the Congress should not diminish the value of current investments or ongoing business activities.

We should also ensure that no single competitor in the satellite services industry is advantaged or disadvantaged by our actions. In our effort to create a more dynamic marketplace, we should endeavor ourselves to provide even more consumer choice. Any limitation on services that any one company would offer should be seen as an outcome that reduces consumer choice. As I said previously, at a time when demand for Internet and other broadband services are driving growth across the telecommunications industry, it would be terribly ironic if an action of the Congress actually limited choice in the satellite market.

I am optimistic that we will produce legislation in the conference committee that is genuinely pro-competitive and offers customers around the world more choices. I look forward to working with Chairman BLILEY and Senator BURNS to produce legislation that meets these objectives.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL MONTOYA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it makes me very proud to rise before the House

of Representatives to recognize Manuel Montoya from Mora, NM. Just a few weeks ago Manuel began his studies at Oxford, England as a Rhodes Scholar. Manuel is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and is one of only 32 students nationwide to earn the much coveted scholarship named in honor of philanthropist Cecil Rhodes. And just last year Manuel also earned the distinguished Truman Scholarship. I want to recognize Manuel for bringing honor to his family, his community and to New Mexico.

Manuel was born and raised in Rainsville, in the County of Mora. He lost his father at an early age. Through his faith and his gifts, he has turned tragedy into inspiration and misfortune into strength, both for himself and for those around him. The County of Mora is one of the most economically disadvantaged counties in our country. The county confronts all of the challenges that affect rural America today. Although stricken by poverty, Mora is one of the wealthiest counties in spirit in our country, rich in culture and history with its Hispanic Heritage, rich in beauty with its mountains, valleys and rivers, rich in people that place the highest value on family, honor and respect. And Mora is rich in faith and rich in hope. The best of Mora is personified in Manuel Montoya and he has made our State and his community very proud.

On behalf of all New Mexicans I want him to know that he is in our thoughts and we look forward to his many successes. Manuel, La Gente de Mora y de Nuevo Mexico estan Contigo.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the newspaper article recognizing Manuel's accomplishments also be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Santa Fe New Mexican, Dec. 8, 1999]

MORA NATIVE WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

(By Kim Baca)

As a boy, Manuel-Julian Rudolfo Montoya of Mora wrote stories about his father—his favorite hero next to Batman.

In his stories, his father helped him and the family. Montoya was 7 when his father died, but the child never forgot the things his father taught him—especially things about trust, honor and leadership.

It may be those things that helped the 21-year-old University of New Mexico senior become one of 32 American students named a Rhodes scholar Saturday.

"I am not proud of the accomplishment, but what it means to all those people that helped me get there," Montoya said. "This is by no means my scholarship; it belongs to a lot of people—to my family, to my friends, my community. It belongs to UNM and everybody has the right to celebrate that."

The prestigious scholarship program was created in 1902 by British philanthropist and colonial pioneer Cecil J. Rhodes to help students from English colonies and the United States attend Oxford University in England for two or three years.

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