

**NEWS from U.S. Congressman**

★ **Pete Sessions** ★

**32nd District of Texas**

**National Security \* Economic Security \* Homeland Security**



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## **Sessions Introduces *Preserving Innovation in Telecom Act* *Legislation will spur innovation and prevent wasteful or duplicative use of taxpayer dollars***

WASHINGTON— Congressman Pete Sessions (R-Dallas) today introduced legislation designed to increase access to telecommunications services, spur innovation, and prevent the wasteful or duplicative use of taxpayer dollars. The *Preserving Innovation in Telecom Act*, H.R. 2726, will:

- Prohibit any State or local government from offering telecommunications, telecommunications service, information service, or cable service in any geographic area in which a private entity is already offering a substantially similar service.
- Allow State or local governments that are already providing service on the date of enactment of this legislation to continue doing so.
- Allow State or local governments to offer telecommunications services in the event of market failure in a geographic region.

“Rather than investing in vital public works projects, some local and State governments are investing their limited funds into telecommunications projects and putting taxpayer dollars at risk,” said Sessions. “By choosing to invest their limited resources in telecommunications infrastructures, municipal governments often duplicate services already provided by a private entity.

“My goal in introducing this legislation is to discourage municipal governments from wasting taxpayer funds on building duplicative infrastructure while at the same time encouraging private companies to offer continually-innovating service in underserved areas by removing the specter of government competition,” Sessions concluded.

Following enactment of the *Preserving Innovation in Telecom Act*, markets in which networks built by municipal governments already exist will be “grandfathered” to allow the government to continue offering service uninterrupted. In markets in which private entities fail to offer service, municipal governments will be permitted to build networks and offer service.

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