



GUIDELINES ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Background

Communities recognize the importance of broadband access as an essential building block for a strong and vibrant community and economy. Availability and accessibility of telecommunications services is an essential part of the equation, not only for enhancing economic development, health care, education, government and other sectors of our global community but to the quality of life of all Coloradans.

The Chamber Supports:

1. Affordable, quality, widely available access to advanced telecommunications services and broadband service is important to the present and future viability of Colorado communities, businesses and residents.
2. For local government to advocate for their citizens' best economic interest and service needs in partnership with the private sector when appropriate and/or available.
3. Updating antiquated laws, rules and practices at the federal and state levels in order to provide better telecommunications services to rural communities.
4. Working together to generate creative solutions to broadband access needs and encourage future competitive alternatives.
5. Policies that create options for local solutions to advance service and broadband technology needs utilizing local determination and encouraging private sector involvement.
6. Exploring funding mechanisms to provide capital investment in the advanced infrastructure that broadband access often requires in rural areas.
7. Providing incentives to the private sector for infrastructure development to ensure access is available to all sectors of the community.
8. Rights-of-way access policies that are cost effective for telecommunications infrastructure deployment by the private sector.
9. Government owned networks to follow the same basic competitive principals and regulatory requirements as private sector providers.

The Chamber opposes:

1. Governments acting as both regulators – controlling permitting, zoning and rights of way, and (subsidized) telecommunications carriers/competitors at the same time.
2. State or grant funded overbuilding and duplication of existing private sector networks.