



## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ELECTIONS



The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) is composed of 7 members elected by the S.C. General Assembly. The Commission has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to investor-owned electric and gas utilities, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications carriers, motor vehicle carriers of household goods and hazardous waste, taxicabs and other motor vehicle passenger carriers. This year the General Assembly will elect four Commissioners. The following persons have applied as candidates:

### **District 1 (Charleston, Berkeley, Beaufort, Dorchester and Calhoun Counties)**

John E. “Butch” Howard of Moncks Corner (incumbent)  
Barbara R. Nwokike of Charleston  
Carolyn L. “Carolee” Williams of Charleston

### **District 3 (Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Laurens, Greenwood, McCormick, Edgefield, Saluda and parts of Newberry and Greenville Counties)**

Cromer H. “Randy” Randall, III of Clinton (incumbent)

### **District 5 (Cherokee, York, Union, Chester, Lancaster, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lee and parts of Spartanburg, Newberry and Sumter Counties)**

William J. “Billy” Hagner of York  
Swain E. Whitfield of Winnsboro (incumbent)  
Furman Dabbs of Sumter

### **District 7 (Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Horry and Georgetown Counties)**

Thomas J. “Tom” Anderson, II of Conway  
Jerry M. Arnette, Jr. of Dillon  
Glenn M. Bell of Hartsville  
Clara L. Brockington of Florence  
G. O’Neal Hamilton of Bennettsville (incumbent)

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Public hearings to review each candidate’s qualifications before the PSC Screening Subcommittee of the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee began April 18<sup>th</sup>. The election is scheduled for the end of May.



## From the Executive Director...

The second session of the 121st General Assembly (GA) of South Carolina is half over & just a couple weeks away from the May 1<sup>st</sup> crossover deadline. After the May 1<sup>st</sup> crossover deadline, bills require a two-thirds vote for consideration. *Sine die* adjournment is close also, scheduled, as required by rules, for the first Thursday in June (June 2, 2016). The SC Cable Television Association is currently monitoring close to 300 bills filed in the Palmetto state. These bills either directly or indirectly affect the SC cable industry but at this point most are not of great concern. However, this association continues to closely monitor each legislative desk, as members continue to file bills throughout session.

At this point in the South Carolina legislative session, two major issues remain in the forefront, ethics reform and infrastructure/highway funding. The SC House is currently debating what the Senate passed with expectations that the issue will probably end up in conference committee. Similarly, the House has passed ethics reform in a number of bills which the Senate is currently debating, hoping to come to a resolution before they tackle the annual appropriations bill.

I thank you for your participation in our spring SCCTA board meeting and in our annual dinner in which we honor the Senate Judiciary Committee and their staff. We had almost 40 people attend the dinner which, due to its popularity, is now an expected annual event for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The 2016 SC Cable Scholarship applications are due (postmarked) June 1, 2016. Last year we had exceptional applicants making it difficult to narrow down scholar recipients. A special thank you to Brad Phillips, Mike Mitchell and Brian Gregory for agreeing to serve on the SC Cable Scholarship Selection Committee.

Last year, Tim Gage suggested an Investment Committee to fully vet and report on the SCCTA & SCCTF's investments during our July meeting. Ben Breazeale, Mike Mitchell & Brian Gregory agreed to serve on the investment committee. I will coordinate a meeting between Greg David and this new committee prior to the July meetings.

Hopefully, our summer newsletter will include a report on the passage of S277. The bill is currently in the SC House and your team, along with ATT, the rural telephone companies and last year's opposition (Verizon, T Mobile & Sprint) are working hard together to ensure passage in the House getting the bill back to the Senate for final passage.

I continue to appreciate the great governmental affairs team we have in South Carolina. Your input is needed and is very valuable as we continue to protect and promote the cable industry.

*Ray Sharpe*

## 2016 NCTA KEY CONTACT



It was great having many of you participating in this year's NCTA Key Contact conference. Thanks to Tim Gage, Mike Mitchell, Brad Phillips, Ben Breazeale, Brian Gregory, Jim Corrin, Stacy Cole, Christopher Polnitz & Sam McGill for your part in a very successful South Carolina presence. Our successful meetings resulted in commitments from six SC members of Congress agreeing to weigh in with the FCC urging this Commission to suspend further action on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking allowing third party tech companies to use our industries set-top boxes. Most members also agreed to support HR 2666 – the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act. Thanks again team!



From left to right: Ben Breazeale, Rep. Mark Sanford, Ray Sharpe, and Jim Corrin.

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## SAVE THE DATE



**July 22-30, 2016**  
**South Carolina Cable Television Association**  
**Board of Directors Retreat**  
**Wild Dunes Resort**  
**Isle of Palms**



## Member News...

### COMCAST AND HUD ANNOUNCE PILOT PROGRAM TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

**PHILADELPHIA (March 24, 2016)** — Comcast today announced a pilot program with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [ConnectHome](#) initiative to attack the digital divide for public housing residents. Eligibility for [Internet Essentials](#), Comcast's acclaimed, high-speed Internet adoption program, will be immediately extended to public housing residents in Miami-Dade County, Nashville, Philadelphia, and Seattle. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years Comcast has expanded eligibility for Internet Essentials.

Also today, Comcast announced its latest Internet Essentials milestones. In less than 5 years, the program connected more than 600,000 low-income families, benefitting more than 2.4 million Americans. In fact, 2015 was the program's single most successful year ever, with a 30 percent increase in enrollments over 2014.

Comcast Corporation Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer David L. Cohen and HUD Secretary Julián Castro made today's announcements alongside Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Giménez and Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado at Rainbow Village, a public housing development in Miami. At the event, Comcast technicians were on hand to install Internet service on the spot. Comcast also provided a free laptop computer and 6 months' worth of complimentary Internet Essentials Internet service to every Rainbow Village household. In addition, the company donated 15 new computers to the Rainbow Village computer lab where digital literacy training sessions take place after school and where students can do homework and adults can get online.

"Internet access at home is essential to succeed in today's digital world on all fronts, from employment to education. Unfortunately, a cruel irony is at work, as the majority of low-income families, including those in public housing, who truly need the transformative power of the Internet are not connected," said Cohen. "Comcast's collaboration with ConnectHome will not only build a bridge for those living in public housing to cross the digital divide, but the Internet also gives them a ladder to educational and vocational resources that can improve the quality of their lives and help them claim their American dream."

"ConnectHome is expanding opportunity for the next generation, preparing them for success in the 21st century," said Castro. "We're thankful to have Comcast join the ConnectHome initiative and our continued efforts to close the digital divide. Through their commitment and all of our great stakeholders, public and private, we're leveling the playing field for public housing residents across the nation and opening doors to prosperity that otherwise would remain closed."

Between 2009 and 2014, broadband service providers spent over \$422 billion on capital investments, and 3 in 4 American households now use broadband at home. Despite this significant progress, 1 in 4 American homes still don't access the Internet at home, particularly lower-income families with children. While nearly 2/3 of America's lowest-income households own a computer, less than 1/2 have a home Internet subscription. HUD's ConnectHome initiative strives to ensure that students can access the same level of high-speed Internet at home that they possess in their classrooms.

Today's announcement marks the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years Comcast has expanded eligibility for the program, which underscores the company's commitment to attacking the digital divide. Originally, Internet Essentials was offered to families with children eligible to receive a free school lunch from the National School Lunch Program. It was first expanded to children also eligible for the reduced price school lunch program. Comcast then expanded eligibility to include families with children in parochial, private, charter, and cyber schools, as well as students who are home schooled. Last year, Comcast extended the program 2 more times, on a pilot basis, to low-income seniors and low-income community college students. Comcast has expanded the number of schools where every student in the school will be deemed eligible for the program so long as a certain percentage of the kids in that school are NSLP eligible – from 70% to 50%, and now to 40%. As a result, Comcast estimates auto-enrollment now applies to about half of the 48,000 schools across its service area.

## Member News...



### **DAN JONES RETIRES FROM TIME WARNER CABLE**



After more than eight years as Vice President of Government Relations for Time Warner Cable, Dan Jones has decided to retire. Dan's storied career both with TWC and as a principal with Government Consultants, Inc., demonstrates the characteristics of a man highly regarded and well respected among his peers. In his thirty-nine years of working with federal, state and local elected officials, Dan has been called upon for counsel on important issues many times. Brad Phillips, Regional VP of Government Relations for TWC noted "To have Dan Jones on our team has been an honor and it's been a privilege to work with him. We will miss his keen insight, impeccable work ethic, brutal honesty and his enlivening sense of humor." Dan was honored at the General Assembly on March 10, 2016, the date of his retirement.

In 2008, Dan and other members of the SCCTA, moved the S.C. Cable Television Association to this state and molded it into a much better entity representing cable television's business interestes in South Carolina. Dan has been an integral part of the successes of the SCCTA Board and its foundation having served twice as Chairman of the Board.

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### **TIME WARNER CABLE NAMES BEN BREAZEALE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 9, 2016)** — Time Warner Cable announced the appointment of Ben Breazeale to the position of Senior Director of Government Relations for South Carolina. Ben Breazeale succeeds Dan Jones, who retired from Time Warner Cable after working with federal, state and local elected officials for 39 years, eight of which were with the company.

Breazeale has worked with Time Warner Cable in its South Carolina offices for 16 years. Breazeale is now the company's principal lobbyist at the state level while also interacting with the Congressional delegation. Additionally, he will manage relationships with local officials in the 110 county governments and municipalities served by TWC across South Carolina.

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### **COMCAST TO CREATE 550 NEW JOBS AT NORTH CHARLESTON CALL CENTER**

Comcast officials this week announced the construction of a new 80,000 square foot "Customer Experience Center" in North Charleston. The center will provide customer care services and technical support for the telecommunications services Comcast provides. Charleston County Economic Development executive director Steve Dykes said Comcast's decision to build the facility may be based on their good business relationship with the city thus far. Comcast currently has a center in North Charleston for their cable TV service that Dykes said, "has been doing well for years."

"They're building a \$21 million office complex that will obviously create a lot of construction jobs on the front end. And then beyond that, the \$21 million will be taxed by local entities such as the county and the city of North Charleston," Dykes said. "We will experience a stream of revenue in taxes from that facility that will help fund public services here in this area. I think what is the most impressive impact is the annual estimated \$17 million annual payroll from 550 job creation." (continued on page 7.....)

## Member News...



### Comcast Seeks TV and Other Consumer Electronics Partners to Bring Xfinity TV Cable Service to More Retail Devices

By [Mark Hess](#), Senior Vice President, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Business and Industry Affairs, Comcast Cable in TV

**April 20, 2016**—Our customers should be able to access their Xfinity TV cable service wherever they want, whenever they want, on whatever device they want. We've developed apps that give customers the ability to watch thousands of shows and movies at home or on the go, and these apps have already been downloaded more than 23 million times to a number of retail devices. Now, we are working with consumer electronics device manufacturers on a new program that will bring these great experiences to more devices including smart TVs.

Today, we are launching the Xfinity TV Partner Program. Through this new program, we will expand the range of retail devices our customers can use to access Xfinity TV cable service without the need to lease a set-top box. By leveraging the open HTML5 standard that has been widely adopted across the industry, we are providing a common framework to make it easy for TV and other device manufacturers to bring our Xfinity TV Partner App to customers on their devices. This app will provide access to our Xfinity TV cable service, including the Emmy-Award winning Xfinity TV guide, live and on demand programming and cloud DVR recordings, and will be available on partners' smart TVs, TV-connected devices, and other IP-enabled video devices. Importantly, the app will also ensure that our service is delivered in a secure and trusted environment that satisfies programmer agreements and complies with all regulatory requirements, including privacy protections, delivery of Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages, and closed captioning, video description, and other accessibility features. We are already working with launch partner Samsung Electronics to implement this app on its Smart TVs, and we look forward to working with other companies as well.

As part of the Xfinity TV Partner Program, Comcast is prepared to provide consumers with a capability to search through Comcast's video assets from a device's user interface with playback of a selected asset via the Xfinity TV Partner app. However, in order to provide a cohesive customer experience, such integrated search needs to include more than just this app; it must also include similar data from other video apps as well.

The Xfinity TV Partner App can be easily implemented by any company whose consumer electronics device supports HTML5 and other compatibility requirements. While many TV and other device manufacturers already support HTML5, for those that do not, we're open to working together to explore customized versions of the app for their platforms as well. We have already developed award-winning app experiences on iOS and Android devices, and today we also announced a partner app agreement with Roku. This customized app will enable our customers to access their Xfinity TV cable service on their TVs via a Roku streaming player or directly on a Roku TV.

As I mentioned and want to underscore, Comcast Xfinity TV apps have already been downloaded 23 million times to a variety of retail devices, showing the popularity and convenience of watching TV in or out of the home. The FCC's technical advisory committee also recently highlighted that video apps are rapidly proliferating due to consumer demand. In light of the success of the apps-based model in the marketplace, the far-reaching government technical mandate being currently proposed by the FCC is unnecessary. The FCC's proposed set-top box mandate threatens to undermine this highly-dynamic marketplace, create substantial costs and consumer harms, and will take years to develop -- only to be likely outdated by the time it reaches the marketplace -- all in an effort to achieve what apps are already delivering for consumers.

We look forward to continuing to work with partners across the industry on the Xfinity TV Partner Program and to provide our customers with even more choice in where and how they access and enjoy the Xfinity TV experience. Consumer electronics manufacturers seeking more information about this program and how we can work together to implement this new app on your TVs or other devices should visit <https://developer.xfinity.com/cableapp> or contact Comcast directly via email at [partner@comcast.com](mailto:partner@comcast.com).

## Comcast to Create Jobs (continued from p. 5)

The center will be located at 3450 Ingleside Boulevard in North Charleston. The facility is scheduled to be operational later this year, with 550 jobs being created over the next two years. Comcast will start filling positions later this year. Dykes said though call centers are somewhat disrespected in economic development circles he believes that Comcast economic investment will pay off.

“There’s a lot of communities and economic developers who look at a call center as a plum of an economic development target, they look at the wages as not being quite as high but what I will say is over the years in Charleston county, is we’ve become utterly convinced that call centers have a real important role in the food chain here in the economy.”

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## Regulatory News

### Update on PSC Wireless Docket

The Public Service Commission issued its order addressing wireless-wireline competition on January 26, 2016. *Petition of the SC Telephone Coalition for a Determination that Wireless Carriers are Providing Radio-Based Local Exchange Services in SC that Compete with Local Telecommunications Services Provided in the State*, SC PSC Docket No. 2015-290-C, Order No. 2016-22, dated January 26, 2016. The decision means that payments into the SC USF will now be fairly distributed between wireless and wireline carriers. The Commission concluded that overwhelming evidence shows that wireless providers are competing with wireline providers for local service. As a result, wireless carriers are required to contribute to the SC USF in the same manner that other telecommunication service providers contribute. CTIA-The Wireless Association has appealed the decision to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

### ORS Promotes National Consumer Protection Week

The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff in conjunction with other community organizations hosted events

recognizing National Consumer Protection week beginning March 6, 2016. National Consumer Protection Week is coordinated by the Federal Trade Commission to encourage consumers to take full advantage of their consumer rights and make better-informed decisions. The theme was *Power Up! Know Your Rights*. ORS and the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs held a phone bank at WLTX to answer questions on utility rights and other issues. Consumer education events were also held at Harvest Hope Food Banks in Columbia and Lexington as well as a “Shred Day” at Shred 360’s Irmo facility. ORS’s Director of Consumer Services, Transportation and Water/Wastewater, Dawn Hipp, presented information to the S.C. Public Service Commission at its weekly agenda meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### AT&T Increases Rates

On March 18, 2016, AT&T notified the Commission that effective April 2, 2016, it would increase the prices for its stand-alone basic residential lines that remain subject to the inflation-based price index pursuant to the South Carolina deregulation statute. The new rates are not more than 1.08% higher than the current rates effective April 2, 2016.



## SCCTA Supports Governor's School for the Arts

In February, the senior drama students at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (SCGSAH) attended the Unified Theatre Auditions in Chicago, IL. These auditions are held annually to give high school seniors the opportunity to audition for the best theatre programs at universities and conservatories across the country including The Juilliard School, Carnegie Mellon University, and The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Since 2008, 11 Governor's School students have been accepted into The Juilliard School based on their Unified Auditions.

This year, thanks to the generous support of the South Carolina Cable Association, the SCGSAH drama students were able to attend several performances while in the Windy City. After the first full day of auditions the students attended a performance at The Second City, a sketch and improv comedy group where many actors including Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, and Bill Murray got their start. They absolutely loved the show and got in some much needed laughs after the stress of the day. It was also an eye opening experience for many of the seniors who had never seen a sketch comedy show.

On the last night of the trip, the group attended "Bold Moves" at the Joffrey Ballet. It was an incredible performance in a beautiful theater built in 1889. Not only was it the opening night of "Bold Moves", it was also the world premiere of one of the pieces so the theatre was packed and energy was high. Dance is a vital part of the Governor's School Drama Department's training program and seeing the skill level of Joffrey's talented dancers was inspiring. Words cannot begin to express how thankful the SCGSAH drama students, faculty, and parents are for your support. Not only did you give our young artists the opportunity to see top-quality performances at world famous venues, you have given them the opportunity to be inspired by great artists and discover aspects of the arts they had not yet experienced.

## SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following bills of interest have been enacted since the last newsletter:

### Act 132 – Senate Bill 255 – Destruction of Booking & Arrest Records

Clarifies the procedure for retention and destruction of criminal records. Makes it unlawful for a person or entity to publish on a non-governmental website or any other publication the arrest and booking records with some exceptions. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/255.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/255.htm)

### Act 134 – House Bill 3874 – Renewable Energy Property

Provides an income tax credit for the construction, purchase or lease of certain solar energy property placed in service in the state. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/3874.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/3874.htm)

The following bills of interest were introduced after the last newsletter:

### Senate Bill 983 – Unused Data Balance

Requires communications service providers to carry forward at no additional expense any unused data balance from one monthly billing cycle to the next. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/983.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/983.htm) Senate Judiciary





**Legislation (continued....)****Senate Bill 988 – Easement**

Prohibits public utility with an easement from denying another utility's reasonable request to use the preexisting easement for a public purpose. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/988.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/988.htm) Senate Judiciary

**House Bill 4622 – Advertising Litter Control Act**

Establishes a civil penalty for a person who distributes advertising matter after being notified to stop distribution to a certain address. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4622.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4622.htm) House Judiciary

**House Bill 4627 – SC Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act**

Establishes a framework for Internet users to plan for the management and disposition of digital assets upon death or incapacity. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4627.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4627.htm) House Judiciary

**House Bill 4636 – Sine Die Adjournment**

General Assembly would adjourn the first Thursday in May instead of June and provides for a biennial state general appropriations act. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4636.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4636.htm) House Ways & Means

**House Bill 4637 – Eminent Domain**

Requires an entity exercising the right of eminent domain to present evidence that the condemnation is for a public use that provides a necessary and direct benefit to the public at large. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4637.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4637.htm) House Judiciary

**House Bill 4679 – Alternative Regulation of Local Carriers**

Revises deregulatory provisions related to alternative regulation. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4679.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4679.htm) Passed House. In Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

**House Bill 4822 – Wireless Use while Driving**

Illegal to use a wireless device while driving unless it is hands-free. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4822.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4822.htm) House Education & Public Works.

**House Bill 4840 – Arbitration Agreements**

Certain arbitration clauses in adhesion contracts are void and unenforceable. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4840.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4840.htm) House Judiciary

**House Bill 4967 – Business License Compliance Reform Act**

Requires local government to hold a public hearing prior to adopting a business license tax ordinance and provides that a person is subject to only one business license tax. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/4967.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/4967.htm) House Labor, Commerce & Industry

**House Bill 5040 – Territorial Application of Consumer Protection Code**

Expands how a creditor may induce a consumer to enter into a transaction among other revisions. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/5040.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/5040.htm) House Labor, Commerce & Industry

**House Bill 5065 – Volume of Commercials**

Prohibits a cable provider from allowing commercials to air at a higher volume than the television program airing at the time. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/5065.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/5065.htm) House Labor, Commerce & Industry

**House Bill 5109 – SC Business License Tax Standardization Act**

Provides the sole manner in which a local government business license tax may be imposed. [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121\\_2015-2016/bills/5109.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess121_2015-2016/bills/5109.htm) House Labor, Commerce & Industry

## FCC BRIEFS

The following documents can be downloaded from the FCC's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>

On March 30, 2016, the FCC approved modernization and reform of its USF program supporting small rural carriers. Approximately \$20 billion in support will be provided over the next 10 years. (FCC 16-33)

The Internet Access Services Status Report as of December 31, 2014, and the Voice Telephone Services Status Report as of December 2014, were released on March 30, 2016. The reports can be downloaded from the Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/iatd-data-statistical-reports>

On March 16, 2016, the Wireline Competition Bureau released data on fixed broadband deployments as of June 2015.

On March 10, 2016, Chairman Wheeler circulated a NPRM for consideration by the full Commission to give broadband consumers increased choice, transparency & security.

On February 18, 2016, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry to examine the state of video programming diversity. The NOI solicits comment on the principal challenges independent programmers face in gaining carriage of their content. (FCC 16-41)

The FCC approved a proposal on February 18, 2016, that would eliminate barriers to allow competition to provide the set-top boxes that most consumers lease from pay-TV providers. The NPRM is intended to create a framework for providing manufacturers and app developers the information they need to develop new

technologies. The NPRM recommends that pay-TV providers be required to deliver the following core information streams: (1) service discovery-information on programming available to consumers; (2) entitlements-information about what a device is allowed to do with content, such as recording; and (3) content delivery-the video programming itself.

On February 18, 2016, the FCC adopted amendments to its rules on closed captioning of televised video programming to ensure that those who are deaf and hard of hearing have full access to programming. The order clarifies that the video programmers are responsible for the quality of closed captioning while the delivery and technical aspects remains the distributors' responsibility. (FCC 16-17)

On January 28, 2016, the FCC adopted rules to require cable operators to post their public and political files to the FCC's online public inspection file database. (FCC 16-004)

On January 28, 2016, the FCC proposed rules to strengthen the Emergency Alert System. The NPRM aimed at promoting community preparedness and ensuring that the public receives the most effective alerts during emergencies. (FCC 16-005)

The Broadband Progress Report was issued on January 28, 2016, indicating that while significant progress in broadband deployment has been made the digital divide persists. 34 million Americans lack access to broadband meeting today's benchmark speeds. (FCC 16-006).

## STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

As of March 31, 2016, the South Carolina Secretary of State has issued the following certificates of franchise authority. Changes since the last newsletter are highlighted in red.

ATLANTIC BROADBAND.....	Aiken, Aiken County, Allendale, Allendale County, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Barnwell, Barnwell County, Blackville, Burnetown, Denmark, Elko, Fairfax, Jackson, New Ellenton, Orangeburg County, Perry, Salley, Snelling, Springfield, Wagner, Williston
BALDWIN COUNTY INTERNET/..... DSSI SERVICE, LLC	Beaufort County, Charleston County, Greenville, Greenville County
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ... INC. d/b/a AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA	Aiken, Anderson, Anderson County, Arcadia Lakes, Bamberg County, Belton, Berkeley County, Blythewood, <del>Burnetown</del> , Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Chapin, Charleston, Charleston County, Cheraw, Cherokee County, Chesterfield County, Clemson, Clover, Colleton County, Columbia, Cordova, Dorchester County, Duncan, Easley, Edgefield County, Edisto Beach, Elgin, Fairfield County, Folly Beach, Forest Acres, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, Gaston, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Hanahan, Hollywood, Irmo, Isle of Palms, James Island, Kiawah Island, Kershaw County, Laurens County, Lexington County, Liberty, Lincolnville, Little Mountain, Lyman, Marlboro County, Mauldin, McConnells, Mount Pleasant, Newberry, Newberry County, North Augusta, North Charleston, Oconee County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pelzer (incumbent portions), Pickens, Pickens County, Pine Ridge, Ravenel, Reidville, Richland County, Rockville, Seabrook Island, Seneca, Six Mile, South Congaree, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, Sullivan's Island, Summerville, Travelers Rest, Union, Union County, Walhalla, West Columbia, West Pelzer, Westminster, Williamston, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Berkeley County, Bonneau, Charleston, Goose Creek, Harleyville, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, North Charleston, St. Stephens, Summerville
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION ... ..	Central, Clemson, Pickens County
CAMDEN CORPORATE INVESTMENTS LLC, d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	City of Camden
CAROLINA TELECOM SERVICES.....	Hickory Grove, Sharon, York
CATAWBA SERVICES, LLC .....	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Abbeville, Anderson County, Belton, Blacksburg, Campobello, Central Pacolet, Cherokee County, Chesnee, Clinton, Cowpens, Duncan, Easley, Gaffney, Gray Court, Greer, Greenville, Greenville County, Honea Path, Inman, Iva, Jonesville, Landrum, Laurens, Laurens County, Lockhart, Mauldin, Newberry County, Oconee County, Pelzer, Pickens County, Reidville, Salem, Simpsonville, Six Mile, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Starr, Travelers Rest, Union, Union County, Wellford, West Pelzer, Whitmire, Williamston, Woodruff
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Chesnee, Spartanburg County
CHESTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	Chester, Richburg
COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT, LLC .....	Brunson, <b>Charleston County</b> , Colleton County, Folly Beach, Hampton, Jasper County, Kiawah Island, <b>Newberry County</b> , <b>Newberry</b> , North Charleston, Ravenel, Rockville, <b>Varnville</b> , Walterboro, Yemassee
COMCAST OF CAROLINA.....	Berkeley County, Charleston, Dorchester County, Edisto Beach, Goose Creek, Hampton County, Hanahan, Isle of Palms, James Island, Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Summerville
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC II.....	Beaufort County, Charleston, Edisto Beach, Hampton County, Hollywood, Meggett, Mount Pleasant, Town of Seabrook Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC INC.....	Aiken County, Burnetown, Hampton County, North Augusta
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH.....	Calhoun Falls, Prosperity
ELK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Gaston, Lexington County, Swansea
FAIRVIEW COMMUNICATIONS d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	Blythewood, Richland County, Ridgeway, Winnsboro

**State-Issued Certificates of Franchise Authority *continued*...**

FARMERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	Andrews, Clarendon County, Coward, Florence County, Georgetown County, Greeleyville, Lane, Lee County, Lynchburg, Mayesville, Paxville, Pinewood, Scranton, Sumter, Sumter County, Turbeville, Williamsburg County
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CAROLINAS	Georgetown County, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach
FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, LLC	Bishopville, Clarendon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Hemingway, Kingstree, Lake City, Lee County, Manning, Olanta, Summerton, Sumter, Sumter County, Williamsburg County
GREAT FALLS CABLEVISION, INC. d/b/a TRUVISTA	Town of Great Falls
HARGRAY CATV CO., INC.	Bluffton, Estill, Hampton, Hardeeville, Hilton Head Island, Jasper County, Ridgeland
HARGRAY, INC.	Beaufort, Beaufort County, Port Royal
HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	Conway, Horry County, Georgetown County, Surfside Beach
HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC	Anderson, Anderson County, Donalds, Due West
KNOLOGY OF CHARLESTON, INC.	City of Charleston, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Hanahan, James Island, Lincolnville, Mount Pleasant, North Augusta, North Charleston, Summerville
MANAGED SERVICES INC.	Berkeley County, Horry County, Jasper County, Richland County
NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION	Abbeville County, Central, Clemson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Greenwood County, Hodges, Johnston, Laurens County, Ninety Six, Norris, Oconee County, Pendleton, Pickens, Pickens County, Saluda, Saluda County, Seneca, Six Mile, Walhalla, Ware Shoals, West Union, Westminster
PALMETTO CABLE TV, LLC	Fort Mill, Lancaster County, Tega Cay
PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.	Bamberg County, Colleton County, Cottageville, Lodge, Smoaks, Walterboro, Williams
PASSPORT COMMUNICATIONS	Fort Mill
PINE TREE CABLEVISION	Aiken County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Bethune, Cottageville, Gaston, Jefferson, Kershaw County, Lamar, McBee, Orangeburg County, Perry, Salley, Wagener
PBT COMMUNICATIONS	Gilbert, Lexington, Lexington County, Monetta, Pelion, Ridge Springs, Saluda County, Summit, Wagener
RST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	Gaffney
SANDHILL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	Bethune, Chesterfield County, Jefferson, Kershaw County, McBee, Mount Croghan, Pageland, Patrick
SANDHILL ConNEXTions, LLC	McColl, Marlboro County
SOUTHERN COASTAL CABLE, LLC	Georgetown, Georgetown County
SOUTHERN CABLE COMMUNICATIONS	Georgetown, Georgetown County
TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II	Bowman, Dorchester County, Earhardt, Eutawville, Holly Hill, Orangeburg County
TIME WARNER CABLE, SOUTHEAST, LLC	Andrews, Arcadia Lakes, Batesburg-Leesville, Beaufort County, Bishopville, Bluffton, Blythewood, Calhoun County, Cayce, Charleston County, Cheraw Clover, Chesterfield County, Columbia, Conway, Cordova, Darlington County, Dillon, Dillon County, Dorchester County, Eastover, Elgin, Florence, Florence County, Forest Acres, Fort Mill-rescinded, Georgetown, Georgetown County, Goose Creek, Hardeeville, Hartsville, Hemingway, Hilton Head, Horry County, Irmo, Jasper County, Kershaw County, Kingstree, Lake City, Lakeview, Lane, Latta, Lee County, Lexington, Lexington County, Little Mountain, Manning, Marion, Marion County, McBee, Moncks Corner, Myrtle Beach, Newberry County, Nichols, North Charleston, North Myrtle Beach, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pamplico, Paxville, Pawleys Island, Pine Ridge, Quinby, Richland County, Saluda County, South Congaree, Springdale, St. Matthews, Surfside Beach, Summerville, Sumter, Sumter County, Timmons ville, West Columbia, Williamsburg County, York County
VIDEO VISION, INC.	Fort Lawn, Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lancaster County
YRT2, INC.	Berkeley County, Columbia, Dorchester County, Greenville, Greenville County, Horry County, Myrtle Beach, Summerville