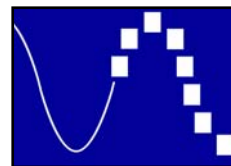


February 8, 2007



Senator John Griesheimer
State Capitol Building
Room 227
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Senator:

As the nation's leading companies developing and delivering voice innovations over the Internet, we are writing to **support key provisions introduced as part of SB 284**, which would help consumers harness the full power and potential of Internet based communication. We commend the legislature's effort to ensure that VoIP services are free from unnecessary regulation.

The VON Coalition believes that with the right public policies, Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP can make talking more affordable, businesses more productive, the Internet more valuable, and Americans more safe and secure. In fact across the country, VoIP competition could save consumers an astonishing \$100 billion over the next 5 years.¹ In Missouri, VoIP innovations will deliver new competition, lower prices, and improved ways to communicate. Automatically applying yesterday's rules meant for the 100 year phone network to tomorrow's Internet services would not only slow these vast benefits from reaching consumers in Missouri, but could also be in violation of federal rules.

SB 284, as introduced, contains key provisions which can empower consumers by enabling VoIP innovations to flourish.

- First, the legislation codifies FCC policy by prohibiting the Public Service Commission from regulating or otherwise exercising jurisdiction over the provision of VoIP service. We support this effort but believe this provision should be further clarified, consistent with FCC policy, that non-Interconnected VoIP services -- like children's video games, instant messaging software that contains a voice component, and peer to peer VoIP services -- are also beyond the reach of PSC regulation.
- Second, the legislation promotes public safety by ensuring that VoIP providers and 911 call-takers have equivalent liability immunity as other telecommunications providers for all 911 calls. We support this provision.

More and more states are coming to recognize that VoIP can be harnessed for enormous public gain. As a result, rather than adopting state specific rules for VoIP, last year government leaders in states like California, Florida, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, and Colorado all took steps to prevent state regulation of VoIP in order to boost broadband deployment and harness VoIP's vast potential for lowering prices while boosting choices and features. We encourage you to follow suit by enacting provisions in SB 284 dealing with VoIP -- and amending them to bring consistency with federal rules that ensure that all VoIP services are not subject to PSC jurisdiction and ensuring that VoIP providers have equivalent immunity from E-911 liability as existing telephone companies.

¹ Micra report (available online at <http://www.micradc.com/news/news.html>) found that VoIP competition can save consumers \$102 billion over the next 5 years.

VoIP can play a critical role in boosting broadband demand, putting new tools in the hands of American consumers and small businesses to enhance productivity, manage daily affairs, and enjoy leisure pursuits. We look forward to working with Missouri leaders to forge pragmatic solutions that enable consumers, businesses, and the economy to achieve the full promise and potential that VoIP can deliver.

Sincerely,

The VON Coalition

About the VON Coalition:

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes AccessLine, BMX, BT Americas, CallSmart, Cisco, Convedia, Covad, EarthLink, Google, iBasis, i3 Voice and Data, Intel, Intrado, Microsoft, New Global Telecom, Openwave, Pandora Networks, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, Switch Business Solutions, T-Mobile USA, United Online, USA Datanet, VocalData, Veraz Networks, and Yahoo! works to advance regulatory policies that enable Americans to take advantage of the full promise and potential of VoIP. The Coalition believes that with the right public policies, Internet based voice advances can make talking more affordable, businesses more productive, jobs more plentiful, the Internet more valuable, and Americans more safe and secure. <http://www.von.org>