



OPASTCO

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**OPASTCO COMMENTS ON NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN
FOCUS ON “NEED FOR SPEED”
TO ADDRESS FUTURE BANDWIDTH NEEDS
OF 100 Mbps AND HIGHER**

Wireline Technologies Uniquely Capable of Meeting Bandwidth Needs

WASHINGTON – Today the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) filed comments with the FCC on a National Broadband Plan for Our Future. The forward-looking comments addressed:

- The accelerating “need for speed” in rural service areas;
- How wireline technologies are uniquely capable of meeting the bandwidth needs of customers in rural service areas;
- Why broadband should be made a supported service under the High-Cost program;
- Why the FCC should remove the cap on HCLS, which fails to account for additional deployment and upgrade costs that rural ILECs must incur to provide robust broadband services throughout their territories;
- The need to support high “middle-mile” transport costs in rural service areas;
- The need to maintain the embedded cost-based support for rural ILECs;
- The public policy argument why it does not make sense to support multiple wireline broadband providers in rural service areas.

“Our nation needs a forward-looking national broadband policy that recognizes how quickly our broadband needs are accelerating,” OPASTCO President John Rose stated. “A goal of 100 Mbps is not unrealistic. Telemedicine, distance learning, public safety applications, interactive job training, and entertainment services are all driving up broadband adoption. We must invest for the future by building a broadband infrastructure ready to meet those bandwidth needs, and wireline technologies are uniquely capable of meeting those future broadband needs today.”

OPASTCO’s comments to the FCC can be found at www.opastco.org.

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Note to Editors: The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) represents more than 600 small, independently owned, local telecommunications companies serving primarily rural areas of the United States and Canada. OPASTCO membership includes both commercial companies and cooperatives, which range in size from fewer than 100 to 100,000 access lines, and collectively serve more than 3.5 million customers. OPASTCO represents rural telecommunications interests before federal regulatory bodies and Congress, provides publications, and holds two conventions annually in January and July of each year, addressing the needs of the small telecommunications industry. The association has an affiliate 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED). Visit the OPASTCO Web site at www.opastco.org.