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**WTA Applauds Senate Letter to Chairman Wheeler on Effects of Set Top Box Proposal on Small Video Providers**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 27, 2016)** – WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband applauds the letter sent today to FCC Chairman Wheeler from ten Senators to bring attention to the effects the FCC’s set top box proposal will have on small pay-TV providers and their customers.

WTA specifically thanks Senators Steve Daines and John Tester for their bipartisan leadership on this issue, which threatens the continued operations of many small pay-TV providers and is likely to generate higher costs and few, if any, real benefits considering ongoing innovation in the video marketplace.

“This is the latest in a series of letters from Congress questioning the FCC’s set-top box proposal. It’s not often you see content providers, distributors, economists, Republicans, and Democrats all aligned against a proposal from the FCC,” said Derrick Owens, WTA’s Vice President of Government Affairs. “Providers large and small are relentlessly looking for ways to meet their customers’ changing needs without the need for an additional regulatory mandate that will only increase the cost of pay-TV service and decrease competition in the traditional video market. Given that the marketplace and consumer demand are already pushing pay-TV providers to innovate, additional regulatory pressures or mandates at this time will only increase uncertainty and cost, particularly for small providers, while stifling consumer-driven innovation,” said Owens.

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*WTA represents more than 300 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, data and video-related services in the United States. WTA’s members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit [www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org).*