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WTA Applauds Senate Passage of S. 96, the Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 4, 2017) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband applauds Senate passage of S. 96, the Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017 yesterday. The legislation would require all intermediate providers of voice communications services to register with the Federal Communications Commission and comply with service quality standards established by the agency.

“We appreciate the work of Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), John Tester (D-MT), and Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Chairman John Thune (R-SD) for all the work they’ve done on this bill,” said Derrick Owens, WTA’s Vice President of Government Affairs. “We’re hopeful the Senate and House can get this legislation to the President for his signature soon. Our members and their customers have been dealing with this issue for far too long. It’s time to ensure calls to rural America reach their final destination.”

Companion legislation, H.R. 460, was passed by the House on January 23 of this year.

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WTA represents more than 350 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband 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.