

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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COMMISSIONERS PLEDGE SUPPORT

Promise to assist lawmakers in difficult task of deciding future of telecommunications

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is offering its full support and cooperation to state lawmakers who will be grappling with the issue of telecommunications deregulation in the coming months. Legislative leadership announced today that Senate Bill 1119 would be shelved in order to afford more time to study the issue.

“The Corporation Commission certainly is willing to provide its expertise to assist state lawmakers during an interim study of the telecommunications issues raised in the debate over Senate Bill 1119,” said Commissioner Jeff Cloud.

“The telecommunications industry continues to evolve and as always the commission is prepared to explore these issues and supports a thorough and deliberative process that gives all sides an opportunity to address their concerns,” added Cloud.

Commission Chair Denise Bode said there is no doubt this is not a simple task.

“Five years ago, I was the Commission’s representative on the blue ribbon panel which included legislators, the governor, and the attorney general. The panel recommended the OCC develop light-handed regulation of the telecommunications industry, which the agency accomplished. The OCC stands ready to work again with the legislature on these complex issues.”

Vice-Chairman Bob Anthony said the bill had the possibility of amending the state constitution.

“The measure could have far broader implications than even supporters or opponents realized,” said Anthony. “There is no doubt that the right thing to do is to take a long, careful look at all the elements involved, and this agency will help in whatever way needed.”

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