



NEWS RELEASE

National Cable & Telecommunications Association
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Statement of NCTA President & CEO Michael Powell Regarding U.S. House Approval of the STELA Reauthorization Act

"We applaud the bipartisan leadership of Chairmen Upton and Walden and Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo for their efforts to secure House approval of the must-pass STELA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 4572). The legislation extends expiring provisions related to retransmission of broadcast TV signals and accomplishes modest reforms of our video laws that will yield significant consumer benefits.

"By eliminating the FCC's Integration Ban, the legislation removes an unnecessary technology mandate that imposes higher costs and energy use on cable customers who lease set-top boxes while offering no benefits. The legislation also appropriately protects consumers from anticompetitive harm by preventing separately owned broadcast stations in local markets from jointly coordinating or participating in negotiations for retransmission consent.

"We look forward to working with the Senate after the August recess to act on this important legislation."

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NCTA is the principal trade association for the U.S. cable industry, representing cable operators serving more than 90 percent of the nation's cable television households and more than 200 cable program networks. The cable industry is the nation's largest broadband provider of high-speed Internet access, serving more than 54 million customers, after investing \$210 billion since 1996 to build two-way interactive networks with fiber optic technology. Cable companies also provide state-of-the-art digital telephone service to more than 28 million American consumers.