**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Officers, Directors and Vice-Directors**

**From: Mike Lisenco and Chris Imlay**

**Re: Senate Companion Bill to H.R. 1301 and Status of Legislative Effort**

**Date: June 24, 2015**

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 Greetings. As many of you know, The Keelen Group, President Craigie, Mike Lisenco and Chris Imlay have been working diligently to arrange for a Senate companion Bill to H.R. 1301, which now has 77 cosponsors (excluding Kinzinger who introduced the Bill) and several others committed to signing on. We are also working hard to get the number of House cosponsors to 100 fast.

 As mentioned previously, the Senate companion Bill has been much more difficult than the House Bill because there are no Senators who are hams and so we didn’t have any established connections as we did with Rep. Walden and Rep. Kinzinger (whose legislative director is a ham).

 However, what we do have are some well-connected and persistent hams in the field. Director Norris located one in Mississippi, who contacted his Senator (Wicker), and then the Mississippi ham contacted Kay. TKG at Kay’s request then set up a meeting with Crystal Tully in Senator Wicker’s office. TKG and Imlay had previously met with a number of Senators on the Senate side looking for Senate companion bill sponsors. We had a few bites but nothing firm on the majority side. We had quickly lined up Senator Blumenthal of Connecticut on the minority side but this had to be a bipartisan bill, as H.R.1301 is. TKG and Imlay visited Crystal Tully about two weeks ago.

 About a week ago, we were told by Ms. Tully that Senator Wicker would be the lead and would introduce our Bill. This is *huge* because Senator Wicker is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Senator Blumenthal also serves on the subcommittee. So Senator Wicker is the Senate equivalent of Greg Walden.

 After we were assured that Senator Wicker would be our main supporter, Lisenco and Imlay did an extensive round of meetings on the Senate side last week. We first circled back with staff of Senator Blumenthal to make sure that his original cosponsor offer was still good (which it was) and then we met with other members of the Subcommittee to get cosponsors. These included Senators Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, McCaskill of Missouri, Klobuchar of Minnesota, Sullivan of Alaska, Blunt of Missouri, Manchin of West Virginia, Daines of Montana, and Markey of Massachusetts. We got positive receptions from all of those offices but of course, at the time, no firm commitments to support a bill not yet dropped. Earlier, Frank McCarthy of TKG and Imlay had met with other Senate offices including Senator Thune from South Dakota, who heads the full Committee in the Senate. We got a very encouraging response from that office and promises of support from other offices.

 Today we have heard from both Senator Wicker’s office and Senator Blumenthal’s office. They tell us (quite unexpectedly) that the Senate Bill will drop on Friday, June 26. So we wanted to update you right away. A copy of the draft Senate Bill from the office of legislative counsel is attached. It will be identical to this in terms of substance. Senator Wicker proposes to add this Bill to an FCC reauthorization bill that is pending in the Senate and which will be marked up next month, so it could move fast. The problem with this is that Senator Blumenthal has reservations about that FCC reauthorization bill and may not want our Senate Bill included in the FCC Reauthorization bill. We will see how that goes but the introduction of the Bill in stand-alone form is what is important at the moment.

 As to the House Bill, H.R. 1301, we anticipate that it will be marked up in the House, and hearings will be held on it, during or after August. We would like to get 100 House cosponsors by that date if possible but Walden is happy with the level of support we have to date. The House cosponsors shown on the Thomas website as of today are as follows, in descending date order:

Rep Courtney, Joe [CT-2] - 3/4/2015

Rep Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [NJ-11] - 3/4/2015

Rep Israel, Steve [NY-3] - 3/4/2015

Rep Griffith, H. Morgan [VA-9] - 3/4/2015

Rep King, Peter T. [NY-2] - 3/4/2015

Rep Tonko, Paul [NY-20] - 3/4/2015

Rep Womack, Steve [AR-3] - 3/4/2015

Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-32] - 3/4/2015

Rep Fortenberry, Jeff [NE-1] - 3/4/2015

Rep Walberg, Tim [MI-7] - 3/4/2015

Rep Jenkins, Lynn [KS-2] - 3/4/2015

Rep Price, David E. [NC-4] - 3/4/2015

Rep Welch, Peter [VT] - 3/16/2015

Rep Heck, Joseph J. [NV-3] - 3/16/2015

Rep Collins, Chris [NY-27] - 3/16/2015

Rep DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4] - 3/16/2015

Rep Graves, Sam [MO-6] - 3/16/2015

Rep Lance, Leonard [NJ-7] - 3/16/2015

Rep Lipinski, Daniel [IL-3] - 3/16/2015

Rep Kirkpatrick, Ann [AZ-1] - 3/16/2015

Rep Harper, Gregg [MS-3] - 3/16/2015

Rep Luetkemeyer, Blaine [MO-3] - 3/16/2015

Rep Walorski, Jackie [IN-2] - 3/19/2015

Rep Benishek, Dan [MI-1] - 3/24/2015

Rep Engel, Eliot L. [NY-16] - 3/24/2015

Rep Joyce, David P. [OH-14] - 3/24/2015

Rep Pierluisi, Pedro R. [PR] - 3/25/2015

Rep Granger, Kay [TX-12] - 3/25/2015

Rep Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4] - 3/26/2015

Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-42] - 3/26/2015

Rep Barletta, Lou [PA-11] - 3/26/2015

Rep Amodei, Mark E. [NV-2] - 4/14/2015

Rep Hanna, Richard L. [NY-22] - 4/14/2015

Rep Cramer, Kevin [ND] - 4/14/2015

Rep Gibson, Christopher P. [NY-19] - 4/14/2015

Rep Rooney, Thomas J. [FL-17] - 4/14/2015

Rep Goodlatte, Bob [VA-6] - 4/14/2015

Rep Westerman, Bruce [AR-4] - 4/14/2015

Rep Huffman, Jared [CA-2] - 4/15/2015

Rep Zinke, Ryan K. [MT] - 4/21/2015

Rep Sessions, Pete [TX-32] - 4/21/2015

Rep Johnson, Bill [OH-6] - 4/21/2015

Rep Maloney, Sean Patrick [NY-18] - 4/21/2015

Rep Meng, Grace [NY-6] - 4/21/2015

Rep Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [GA-1] - 4/28/2015

Rep Rogers, Mike D. [AL-3] - 4/28/2015

Rep Pingree, Chellie [ME-1] - 4/28/2015

Rep Guthrie, Brett [KY-2] - 4/28/2015

Rep Webster, Daniel [FL-10] - 4/28/2015

Rep Himes, James A. [CT-4] - 4/28/2015

Rep Williams, Roger [TX-25] - 5/12/2015

Rep Perlmutter, Ed [CO-7] - 5/12/2015

Rep Olson, Pete [TX-22] - 5/12/2015

Rep Shimkus, John [IL-15] - 5/12/2015

Rep Wenstrup, Brad R. [OH-2] - 5/12/2015

Rep Denham, Jeff [CA-10] - 5/14/2015

Rep Hinojosa, Ruben [TX-15] - 5/20/2015

Rep Weber, Randy K., Sr. [TX-14] - 6/1/2015

Rep Katko, John [NY-24] - 6/1/2015

Rep Miller, Jeff [FL-1] - 6/1/2015

Rep Jones, Walter B., Jr. [NC-3] - 6/1/2015

Rep Rokita, Todd [IN-4] - 6/1/2015

Rep Cardenas, Tony [CA-29] - 6/1/2015

Rep Grothman, Glenn [WI-6] - 6/2/2015

Rep Reed, Tom [NY-23] - 6/3/2015

Rep Bishop, Mike [MI-8] - 6/3/2015

Rep Flores, Bill [TX-17] - 6/9/2015

Rep McHenry, Patrick T. [NC-10] - 6/9/2015

Rep Kuster, Ann M. [NH-2] - 6/9/2015

Rep Carney, John C., Jr. [DE] - 6/9/2015

Rep Blackburn, Marsha [TN-7] - 6/9/2015

Rep Salmon, Matt [AZ-5] - 6/9/2015

Rep Young, Don [AK] - 6/11/2015

Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2] - 6/11/2015

Rep Smith, Lamar [TX-21] - 6/16/2015

Rep Royce, Edward R. [CA-39] - 6/16/2015

Rep Yoder, Kevin [KS-3] - 6/16/2015

 We will need to ask our members to now solicit each of their two senators to sign on to the Wicker/Blumenthal Bill. We will also need to ask you to step up your efforts in support of this legislation within the Divisions. Other than the work of the Executive Committee in the Spring, most of the standup advocacy efforts in Washington recently have been done by President Craigie and by Lisenco and Imlay. Dan Henderson made some rounds in D.C. over several days recently and Director Abernethy has not only generated hundreds of Atlantic Division letters, he and Imlay will be doing a day or two on the Hill in the next week or so, as soon as TKG can set up the meetings for Tom. Good work out in the field in numerous Divisions, and kudos especially to David Norris for his coup for us in the Senate. Mike Lisenco has made numerous trips to Washington for two solid days each time and has done up to 14 meetings on each day. We can get this Bill passed, and it is looking better all the time.

73, Mike Lisenco N2YBB and Chris Imlay, W3KD