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For all his great virtues, we pay tribute to Jose Marti in this, the 140th anniversary of his birth.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 1994

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 23, 1993, I along with Representative JACK FIELDS, ranking Republican, of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, and 13 of my subcommittee colleagues introduced H.R. 3636, the National Communications Competition and Information Infrastructure Act of 1994. Representatives RICK BOUCHER, OXLEY, BRYANT, MOORHEAD, HALL, BARTON, RICHARDSON, HASTERT, LEHMAN, GILLMOR, and SCHENK joined us as original cosponsors—representing a majority of the subcommittee members from both sides of the aisle in support of this landmark communications legislation. This bill also has been endorsed by Vice President GORE and the representatives of the Clinton administration.

Today, I am pleased to announce that Representatives JOSEPH MOAKLEY, BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, GERRY STUDDS, DAVID LEVY, GARY FRANKS of Connecticut, Ronald Machtley, John Olver, Marty Meehan, Peter Blute, and JOHN MCHUGH will join us in cosponsoring H.R. 3636. I commend my colleagues for their vision in recognizing the importance this legislation has in bringing home the advanced digital communications age.

The National Communications Competition and Information Infrastructure Act of 1993 helps deliver the promise of the information superhighway, a seamless network of networks capable of transporting vast amounts of information. This promise is quickly becoming a reality, with all segments of society willing to contribute to the building of the information superhighway. In addition, President Clinton set forth this goal in his State of the Union Address, "I call on Congress to pass legislation to establish that information superhighway this year."

This legislation promotes a national communications infrastructure by encouraging the deployment of advanced communications services and technologies through competition, while also safeguarding ratepayers and competitors from anticompetitive abuses. H.R. 3636 will permit the telephone companies into the cable industry thus creating competition in the multichannel video environment. Second, this bill will provide competition in the local telephone market by requiring that the local exchange carriers provide interconnection and equal access to their telephone networks to any competitors, including cable companies, seeking to provide telephone service. Finally, H.R. 3636 preserves and enhances the fundamental principle of universal service which has been the cornerstone of our communications policy since 1934, when the first comprehensive piece of communications policy was crafted. Universal service is the widespread availability of affordable telephone service to all Americans. We need to embrace this principle in the advanced information age in order to ensure that one consumer is not limited to party line phone service while another consumer is enjoying the luxury of video teleconferencing.

It is important to note that this bill delivers more than just the latest Arnold Schwarzenegger movie or the latest U2 video. It promises the construction of seamless digital network, whereby any book in the Library of Congress can be called up on a computer to be read by someone in Albuquerque, NM; and where students in Los Angeles can converse with their peers in Louisiana; and where a doctor at the Massachusetts General Hospital can diagnose a patient living in the Berkshire Mountains, unable to get in town because of another Nor'eastern snow storm.

The Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance has begun a marathon of hearings examining the various components of this legislation, as well as H.R. 3626, the Antitrust Reform Act of 1993, introduced by Representatives DINGELL and BROOKS. Last week we welcomed endorsements by representatives of the Clinton administration. This week, in three separate hearings, we examined the issues of interoperability in set-top boxes, telephone entry into cable, and universal service. Next week, we will continue those hearings: on Tuesday, February 8, we will examine Bell Co. entry into the manufacturing and information services markets; on Wednesday, February 9, we will discuss opening the local exchange marketplace to competition; and on Thursday we will examine Bell Co. entry into the long-distance market. Our hope is to have these two pieces of legislation passed favorably out of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce by early March.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring H.R. 3636, and to bring the information superhighway home to their districts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION CESSATION ACT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 1994

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the significant development of self-governance in the United States' territories, I am introducing the Territorial Administration Cessation Act. It is time to recognize the territories' ability to govern and eliminate an unnecessary Federal office.

There is no longer a need for the bureaucracy which once directly administered the territories and trust territories with appointed Governors for the former and a high commissioner for the latter. The local administrative functions of Government have been assumed by the territories, which now deal directly with Federal agencies and departments like States. The world's last remaining trusteeship is about to end, the United States having met its obligations under the U.N. Charter.

The President of the United States once appointed Governors as heads of territorial governments. These were generally individuals who were not from the islands to be governed. The appointed Governors worked with the Department of Interior to manage, at varying levels over the years, government operations and the delivery of services. During the past five decades, the territories have assumed the responsibilities of self-governance in the islands. All of the territories now have Governors and legislatures elected by their residents, local court systems, and have developed or have been authorized to develop constitutions. With the exception of the Northern Mariana Islands, the newest member of the American family, each territory is represented in the U.S. Congress by an elected delegate.

The United States has been the administering authority for the U.N. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands since World War II. For over three decades, the Department of Interior managed the development of infrastructure, the operation of basic services like schools and hospitals, and exercised local government and political control. Slowly these responsibilities were transferred to the peoples of the islands as locally elected constitutional governments emerged. Three-fourths of the Trust Territory was terminated in 1986, relieving the Department of Interior of a substantial portion of their responsibilities.

The last segment of the Trust Territory is Palau in the far Western Pacific. As the people of Palau recently voted to approve the Compact of Free Association with the United States, the trusteeship responsibilities of the United States as administering authority are expected to end.

The Territorial Administration Cessation Act would transfer the remaining residual administrative responsibilities of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs of the Department of the Interior to other Federal agencies. All responsibilities relating to the administration and termination of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the implementation of the Compact of Free Association would be transferred to the Office of Pacific Island Affairs of the Department of State. Relations with two other former members of the Trust Territory, also governed by Compacts of Free Association with the United States are already within the purview of the Office of Pacific Island Affairs.

All responsibilities of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs relating to technical assistance and operations and management assistance would be transferred to the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce. The EDA has the resources and experience in managing technical assistance and grant programs including assistance to the territories. The current grant level of assistance administered by OTIA is quite small by comparison to that of EDA.

The legislation would reduce the number of Department of Interior Assistant Secretaries authorized by law from six to five. There would no longer be a need for an Assistant Secretary of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs and most other positions associated with that office.

The Territorial Administration Cessation Act would eliminate unnecessary costs, produce savings, and recognize the progressive levels of self-government in the territories. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Territorial Administrative Cessation Act".

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