



P.O. Box 299
1568 S. 1000 Rd.
Council Grove, KS 66846-0299
(620) 767-5153
FAX (785) 366-7007
TOLL FREE (800) 362-2576
www.tctelco.net

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FROM: Angela Schwerdtfeger, Director of Public Relations, TCT, Inc.
CONTACT: publicrelations@tctelco.net/620-767-5153

TCT Officials Meet with Congressional Representatives

WASHINGTON D.C., March 20, 2012- Representatives from TCT met with the office of Senator Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts, Congressman Tim Huelskamp, and Congressman Mike Pompeo, in Washington D.C., last month to discuss the significant impact of small communications providers like TCT in delivering rural consumers in Dickenson, Marion and Morris counties affordable broadband services.

TCT Board Member, Linda Wessel, and C.E.O., Dale Jones, spoke about the importance of broadband to rural business development and growth, and also the ways that broadband brings education, public safety, telemedicine and other opportunities to rural customers. Ms. Wessel and Mr. Jones provided each delegate an overview of TCT's service area in their district in Kansas and highlighted the types of service TCT provides to businesses and consumers in those communities, as well as informing each delegate as to the number of jobs TCT provides in Kansas and other services that contribute to the area's economic development.

TCT representatives urged their Senators and Congressmen to help them continue to provide the services their community's need, at an affordable rate, by removing regulatory uncertainty and urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reconsider the deep cuts, and other extreme modifications it is proposing to impose in the Universal Service Fund (USF). TCT representatives explained that cuts to this important fund could put existing investments in rural broadband at risk and discourage future investments in new broadband-capable networks by small companies, leading to increased rates for telephone, broadband and other services.

TCT representatives were in Washington to participate in the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's Legislative & Policy Conference, March 19-21. More than 500 rural telecom representatives from all over the country gathered in the nation's capital for educational briefings about emerging rules and regulations and other industry issues. They also took part in visits to policymakers on the Capitol Hill and the FCC.

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