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where there is a will, there is a way. I would like my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and thanking GAP for both its important role as a defender of our precious environment and as an example grassroots organization. As we quickly approach the 21st century, we must be careful not to forget the impact that dedicated individuals can have on our world. Global Action Plan serves as a perfect reminder to us all of that fact.

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. HUGHES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1994

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3636, the Telephone/Cable Communications Competition and Infrastructure Act of 1994. I would like to commend my colleagues, Chairman DINGELL, Chairman MARKEY and Chairman BROOKS for the excellent work they have done with respect to facilitating this measure being brought to the floor for a vote. As a result of their diligence, we have the opportunity—by passing H.R. 3636—to ensure that America remains on the path toward excellence in the international telecommunications marketplace.

Undoubtedly, the technology that American telecommunications companies have developed to date—and have the potential to develop in the future—is tremendous. At this juncture our challenge is to create an environment in which these companies may flourish and achieve even more sophisticated technological advances leading to the establishment of the national information superhighway.

H.R. 3636 will assist us in facing this challenge by promoting the creation of a national communications and information infrastructure. This measure will enable the American telecommunications industry to remain on the cutting edge of the technological advancements fueling this communications revolution by encouraging the development of state-of-the-art communication services and technologies through competition. Of equal importance, this bill establishes provisions to safeguard ratepayers and competitors from potential anti-competitive abuses and preserves as well as enhances universal service.

Essentially, H.R. 3636 will eliminate the line of business prohibitions that currently ban or limit the ability of telephone companies, cable companies as well as other telecommunication service providers from competing in each other's business.

That is, H.R. 3636 will promote competition in the local telephone market by requiring that local telephone companies allow competitors equal access to their networks. Local telephone companies generally could be required to provide space at their facilities for competitors to place equipment with which to connect the telephone companies' networks.

Moreover, the local telephone companies must ensure that such connections provide full interoperability between their phone system and their competitors' systems. The bill also requires long-distance networks and cellular companies to allow other parties to use their

switches and transmission equipment for their competing businesses.

It is important to note that this bill preserves State and local governments' rights to regulate telephone companies to the extent necessary for public safety, consumer protection and to ensure that intrastate rates are reasonable. However, these governing bodies would be prevented from imposing any franchise, license or other fee that discriminates against potential competitors.

One of the most significant aspects of H.R. 3636 is the Federal-State Joint Review Board it establishes to recommend to the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] and the State utility commissions specific action necessary to preserve and enhance universal access for consumers. This joint-board will define the nature and extent of services encompassed within a telephone company's universal service obligation. Moreover, the board's review will ensure that as technological innovation and competition are introduced into the local telephone market, the policy of universal access to basic telephone service at affordable rates is preserved.

As in the local telephone industry, H.R. 3636 will promote and accelerate competition to the cable television industry by permitting telephone companies to compete in the offering of video programming. Essentially, the bill eliminates the cross-ownership restrictions established in the 1984 Cable Act. Therefore, pursuant to H.R. 3636, local telephone companies—through separate affiliates—will be permitted to provide cable services in their own service areas. This increase in competition will, in turn, provide a strong incentive for the local telephone companies to invest in and upgrade their information networks.

Another safeguard against the potential for anticompetitive behavior is the establishment of the video-platform. Pursuant to H.R. 3636, those telephone companies that offer cable services in their own service areas would be required to establish a video platform upon which to offer their video programming. Telephone companies, on a nondiscriminatory basis, must allow other providers to offer video programming to subscribers utilizing the same video platform.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3636. This measure is a procompetitive, proconsumer bill which will enable America to remain at the forefront of the rapidly developing information superhighway while ensuring quality and affordable services for American consumers.

TRIBUTE TO COL. RONALD J. RAKOWSKY

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 1994

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the exemplary work and splendid public service of one of our country's outstanding military men, Col. Ronald J. Rakowsky, the staff judge advocate for the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, CO. Colonel Rakowsky will be retiring after an especially distinguished military career on October 1, 1994.

Colonel Rakowsky entered active duty August 15, 1970, at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. His assignments include Clark AB, Republic of Philippines; Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX; March AFB, CA; Chief Personnel Law Branch, General Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General; Chief Legislative Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General; Associate Director of Civil Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General; Chief, Preventive Law and Legal Aid Group, Office of the Judge Advocate General; and his current position as Staff Judge Advocate, Air Reserve Personnel Center, which he assumed May 14, 1988.

He attained a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University, Granville, OH, in 1966 and a juris doctor in 1969 at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, OH. He is a graduate of the Air War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the Air Command and Staff College. Colonel Rakowsky is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Military Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Ohio, Florida, and Colorado.

Since the spring of 1988, Colonel Rakowsky has been intimately involved in designing, perfecting, and implementing plans for peacetime training and wartime mobilization of the mobilization assets of the U.S. Air Force. During Operation Desert Shield/Storm, he was instrumental in supplying backfill Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Judge Advocates and paralegals to active duty Air Force bases in the continental United States where personnel assets had been projected forward for use in the area of operations for the Persian Gulf conflict. These Reserve and Guard personnel saw to it that quality essential services were available at all Air Force bases during the operations.

Colonel Rakowsky's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal with two devices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Rakowsky's many friends in saluting the distinguished officer's many years of selfless service to the United States of America. I know our Nation, his wife Marge, his daughter Catherine, and his son Robert, are extremely proud of his accomplishments. It is fitting that the House of Representatives pays tribute to him today.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 1994

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4650) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes:

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Chairman, today, we voted on a complex and challenging bill that set funding levels for our Nation's defense. Yet

Document No. 157

