



1st Quarter 2015 Edition

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Legislative Update

- Brant Wolf, OTA Executive Vice President

The legislature is in full swing and our OTA Legislative Committee has had the opportunity to review those bills that have an impact on our business. But, first things first.

Some of the 'usual suspect' ideas that we always end up dealing with during a typical legislative session did not surface this time around. No group made an attempt to use the TDAP fee and fund for some alternative purpose, no one tried to do away with or alter directories, no one introduced a telecommunications customer bill of rights, etc. However, some fan favorites did make a return engagement. The following does not represent all the bills OTA is tracking, just a few that stand out.

HB 2088 and SB 569 – from our friends at Comcast, these would allow local governments to impose a privilege tax on a broader base of telecommunications services than what is currently allowed. OTA opposes these as written but committed to work with Comcast to amend them to something we could live with.

HB 2163 and HB 2172 – from our friends at the League of Oregon Cities and others, these would simply eliminate existing franchise fee law. The result would allow a local government to impose a fee of their own choosing and design levied on whatever telecommunications service they choose and in any amount deemed necessary. Needless to say OTA vigorously opposes this idea.

HB 2351 – this would increase the 9-1-1 fee from the current 75¢ to \$1.25 and then provide for an automatic increase each year base on the inflation rate. While we have never opposed the 9-1-1 fund, we do oppose this bill.

HB 2592 – establishes the authority to organize a broadband utility district to build, maintain and operate a fiber optic network. Local governments can already do this so it was confusing as to why the bill was needed. Turns out the sponsor decided not to make the attempt to pass this bill, at least during this session.

continued, see Update



Get informed 24/7/365

Go to www.ota-telecom.org

- up-to-date industry news
- event calendar
- seminar information
- member directory
- legislative updates

Show off your stuff...

Are you a new member? Would you like your fellow OTA members to notice your company and products? If so, this quarterly online newsletter is a great way to be seen and make new contacts!

Contact the OTA office today!

503.581.7430



ITA Showcase

The 2015 ITA Showcase was held on March 4 and 5 at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel in Portland, Oregon. This year's theme was "It's for You!"

100+ vendors participated by exhibiting their latest products and services.

Seminars were held throughout the event covering a wide variety of topics offering educational tidbits:

"Remote Battery Management"

- Rep Com Internation

"The Problem with Noises"

- S & S Solutions

"Bringing Fiber Deeper into the MDU/MTU"

- TE Connectivity

"TeleHealth and Network Expansion"

- Henkels & McCoy

"Constructs of Competing Carrier Grade Ethernet Approaches"

- CYAN

"Micro Technology: FuturePath and MicroDuct Best Practices"

- Dura-Line

"Broadband Services Over LTE"

- BEC Technologies

"Cetco Drilling Products"

- General Pacific

"Technologies Powering the Giga Life"

- ZyXel

continued, see [ITA Showcase](#)

"It's
for
you"



ITA Showcase continued

"Reinventing Voice and Beyond"

- GENBAND

"Solutions for Wireline, Mobile and Cloud Service Providers"

- Structured

"Trending Now: HPBX and UC"

- Metaswitch

"Indoor vs. Outdoor...Where is Your ONT UPS Best Placed?"

- ESPI



OTA extends a huge thank you to the 2015 ITA Showcase Board of Directors for planning and organizing another successful show!

Mark Johnson, President
North Sky Communications

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Sev Giles
Techtel Marketing

Jim Brett
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And many thanks to all who attended this show —
we appreciate the continual support of the ITA!



Coming in September.....

2015 CO-IT Seminar

September 17 – 18

Three Rivers Casino & Hotel – Florence, Oregon

The members of the OTA Central Office and Information Technologies Committee are diligently putting together the program agenda for the CO-IT Seminar this fall.

There will be a presentation on CALEA provided by Kenneth Blackard, Senior Level Engineer, Operational Technology Division, Telecommunications Intercept & Collection Technology Unit (TICTU) of the FBI.

A representative from Moss Adams will present a NECA update. Other sessions will include Gigabit, Wire Shark Training, Customer Network Designs & Monitoring Tools, TR069, WiFi and a presentation by Brant Wolf of OTA and Jeff Smith of GVNW Consulting on Oregon legislative and FCC updates.

More details to follow...the conference brochure and registration materials will be distributed via email the end of June with all information posted to the OTA website.

Please join us for this informative and educational event.

OTA EVENT CALENDAR

September 2015

CO-IT Seminar

September 17-18

Three Rivers Casino Hotel - Florence, OR

November 2015

Safety Seminar

November 18

Comfort Suites Airport - Salem, OR

Update continued

HB 3104 – authorizes a port to acquire and operate telecommunications facilities. OTA was really concerned this would give a port the authority to condemn all or part of a company's facilities. OTA and CenturyLink were able to get this bill amended to restrict what a port could actually do. Once that occurred we were neutral and this bill has passed both the House and Senate.

SB 668 – gives Counties the authority to levy a privilege tax on facilities located along county roads. Need I say more?

SB 745 – authorizes grants to small counties to provide assistance in obtaining affordable internet access. It is just not entirely clear what the sponsors of this were after but at this point it has not moved one inch and probably will not.

There you have it, a small sampling of some of the issues that came up for consideration this session. It isn't over yet but with the events of February (and you know what I mean) a distant memory with and the Education budget passed, it has gotten really quiet. Lets hope it stays that way.

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Notification of OTA President of Any Antitrust Concerns

OTA members, representatives and attendees should promptly bring any antitrust concerns to the attention of OTA President. Because antitrust law and policy is legally complex (especially in view of the heavily regulated nature of the telecommunications industry), all OTA members, representatives and attendees are expected and instructed to seek promptly the advice of counsel for OTA in the event that there is any question as to whether any contemplated action, activity, proposal, or other course of action may be in conflict with applicable law.

OTA members, representatives and attendees should terminate any discussion, seek legal counsel's advice, or, if necessary, leave any meeting or discussion where improper subjects are being discussed and explain the reasons for departure to those still in attendance.

For a copy of OTA's Antitrust Policy in its entirety, please contact the OTA office.

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OTA COMMITTEE



MEETINGS CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

- 17th *Consumer Services / Marketing Committee Meeting*
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. at Molalla Communications
– Molalla, OR

JULY 2015

- 1st *Safety Committee Meeting*
Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. via Conference Call
- 16th *OTA Small Company & Board of Directors Meeting*
Thursday – 9:30 a.m. at Pioneer Telephone Cooperative
– Philomath, OR
- 16th *Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors Meeting*
Thursday – 10:00 a.m. at OTA Conference Room A
– Salem, OR

AUGUST 2015

- 20th *OSP Committee Meeting*
Thursday – 10:00 a.m. at OTA Conference Room A
– Salem, OR

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 16th *Consumer Services / Marketing Committee Meeting*
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. at DataVision Cooperative
– Gervais, OR
- 16th *CO-IT Pre-Seminar Committee Meeting*
Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. at Three Rivers Casino Hotel
– Florence, OR

OCTOBER 2015

- 2nd *OTA Board of Directors & Small Company Committee Meeting*
Friday – 9:30 a.m. – Baker City, OR

DECEMBER 2015

- 16th *Consumer Services & Marketing Committee Meeting*
Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. at Beaver Creek Telephone
– Oregon City, OR

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New Members

The OTA would like to welcome the following companies who have recently joined the association.

For contact info and links to their websites, please visit the OTA website.

To all of the attendees at this year's OTA/WITA Conference at Salishan, we thank you!

See you next year in Seattle!

*New Premier Associate Members:
Alpha Technologies
PocketiNet Communications*

*New Associate Members:
Allied Telesis
Altec Industries
Cisco
Computer Technology, Inc.
ECI Telecom
ESPi
Martin Enterprises
Western Systems and Services, LLC*



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