



- NEWS POLITICS OPINIONS LOCAL SPORTS ARTS & LIVING CITY GUIDE JOBS CARS REAL ESTATE RENTALS SHOPPING

SEARCH: [input] go [radio] washingtonpost.com [radio] Web: Results by Google | Search Archives

washingtonpost.com > Technology > Tech Policy

Head of Cable Lobby Condemns FCC Report

By Kim Hart Washington Post Staff Writer Thursday, November 15, 2007; Page D03

The head of the cable television industry's lobbying group yesterday took aim at the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, blasting his attempts to place new regulations on cable companies while accusing the agency of manipulating data.

Kyle McSllarrow, president and chief executive of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, disputed a pending FCC report that suggests cable companies reach enough households to warrant additional oversight. He also said that FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin is using the threat of regulation to pressure cable companies into offering channels on an a la carte basis, which would let subscribers pay for only the stations they want.

Cable operators have opposed a la carte pricing, a hot-button issue for Martin.

"We're not going to fundamentally wreck business models and hurt customers to appease the chairman of the FCC," McSllarrow told reporters during a conference call yesterday. "If one looks at the commission's agenda . . . the issues that have been teed up have been designed to hurt the cable industry. If I were in that position," meaning the chairman, "that's not the way I would conduct myself."

A proposal circulating at the FCC would force cable companies to cut the fee they charge TV broadcasters to lease access on spare cable channels, which Martin said would provide viewers with a broader selection of programs. The proposal is the result of an annual report indicating that at least 70 percent of U.S. households have access to cable systems and at least 70 percent of those households subscribe, enough for a 1984 law to take effect that would give the FCC renewed regulatory power.

McSllarrow disagrees with that data and accuses the FCC of "twisting and manipulating statistics" to justify its actions. Citing other research, he said cable companies have access to about 60 percent of the market.

Advertisement



Martin has criticized cable companies for continuing to increase their rates while other communications

TOOLBOX: Resize Text, Save/Share, Print This, E-mail This. COMMENT: washingtonpost.com readers have posted 4 comments about this item. POST A COMMENT: You must be logged in to leave a comment. WHO'S BLOGGING powered by sphere. Links to this article.

Advertisement: 10 DAYS ONLY. CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE SAYING Y.E.S. TO... CENTEX HOMES Enjoy Life.

Advertisement: A better job is right around the corner. Find it now with CareerBuilder.com. enter keywords, enter city, select state, Find Jobs.

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

- Be Prepared. Fight Identity Theft! Equifax.com. Questions about the Medtronic recall?, Mesothelioma T-Shirts, Football T-Shirts, Koozies, Custom T-Shirts



industries, notably wireless and long-distance phone companies, have slashed their prices.

The data dispute is the latest standoff between Martin and McSlarrow, who was also a political appointee in the Bush administration. They have repeatedly clashed over agency actions directed toward the cable industry. Last month, the FCC struck down the ability of cable companies to form exclusive contracts to serve apartment

buildings.

Commissioners Deborah Taylor Tate and Robert M. McDowell, Martin's Republican allies on the commission, are also seeking more information about the data. The commissioners yesterday asked for additional information from Warren Communications News, the company that provided the research to the FCC.

"At least two commissioners are indeed seeking the trustworthiness, truthfulness and viability of the data in question," they wrote in a letter to Warren.

Mary Diamond, spokeswoman for the FCC's media bureau, said in a statement that the agency's top priority is offering cable subscribers lower prices and better service.

"The cable industry needs more competition," she said, "and we will continue to act to bring more competition and its benefits to consumers."

Cool gadgets, hot deals. Visit CircuitCity.com today
 T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless, Cingular/AT&T Phones
 Earn 4.20% APY at ING DIRECT. No Fees and No Minimums.
 Vanguard's Best and Worst Funds to Own Now
 Watch Satellite TV on your PC... For Free!

More on washingtonpost.com

- [Sirius Shareholders Approve XM Deal](#)
- [New Comcast Strategy to Lure Small Biz](#)
- [Minority Firm Seeks Radio Stake](#)
- [House to Vote on Eavesdropping Bill](#)

» [Related Topics & Web Content](#)

People who read this also read ...

- [Groups Press FCC on Comcast, Net Neutrality](#)
- [Singapore bans Microsoft's video game for sex scene: paper](#)
- [Michael Gerson - The GOP's Pocketbook Issue](#)
- [Gibbs Defends His Calls Vs. Eagles](#)



Most Viewed Technology Articles

- [Head of Cable Lobby Condemns FCC Report](#)
- [VeriSign to Sell Off Firms, Strengthen Va. Operations](#)
- [Seed Money to Launch Area's Tech Innovations](#)
- [XM, Sirius Shareholders Vote to Approve Merger](#)

» [Top 35 Most Viewed](#)

powered by **inform**

© 2007 The Washington Post Company

Ads by Google

[10 Rules of Fat Burning](#)

Lose 9lbs. every 11 Days with these 10 Easy Rules of Diet & Fat Loss.
www.FatLoss4Idiots.com

[Apogee Intercept Service](#)

Cost Effective Trusted Third Party Service for CALEA Compliance
www.apogeenet.net

[VoIP E911 Service](#)

FCC Compliant / Accurate Data Cost Effective / Easy to Implement
www.911forvoip.com

NEWS | POLITICS | OPINIONS | LOCAL | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | CITY GUIDE

JOBBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS | SHOPPING

SEARCH: washingtonpost.com Web: Results by

[Search Archives](#)

washingtonpost.com : [About Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Search Terms](#) | [Topics Index](#) | [Make Us Your Home Page](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#) | [Widgets](#)
 The Washington Post: [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#) | [About The Post](#) | [National Weekly](#)
 The Washington Post Company: [Information and Other Post Co. Websites](#)

