AZBSN Meeting Chat – May 16, 2024

08:18:45 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: eX2 has a web page on their partnership with ACA & ADOT to expand broadband access and improve digital equity throughout Arizona as their exclusive Middle-Mile Fiber Infrastructure Operations, Maintenance and Commercialization partner for state-owned fiber assets. See https://ex2technology.com/adot and ADOT's brief with fiber map at https://ex2technology.com/s/ADOT-Commercialization-Cutsheet_R.pdf FYI.

08:21:27 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: Eligibility would align more with Lifeline. @200% vs. 135% below poverty level

08:22:38 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: The Information

Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) has just released a "BEAD Report: Grading States' Initial Proposals for Federal Broadband Funds"

recapping the program and comparing how states & territories are crafting their plans to use their shares of the funds to the greatest possible benefit including an interactive map for data visualization with Arizona scoring a B grade. See https://itif.org/publications/2024/05/13/bead-report-grading-states-initial-proposals-for-federal-broadband-funds/ FYI.

08:23:33 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: The device subsidy would go away as well.

08:23:35 From Heather Floyd to Everyone: That is true 54% of ACP reimbursement was for cell phones not Internet service.

08:33:10 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) has just launched a Digital Inclusion Coalitions webpage at https://www.digitalinclusion.org/digital-inclusion-coalitions/ to support collective of organizations shaped by the community to advocate for digital equity and foster the growth of the community's digital inclusion ecosystem through a formalized structure to facilitate collaboration and coordination.

08:33:45 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: the FCC in the new Net Neutrality rules decided at the last minute to ban states from requiring broadband ISPs to contribute to state Universal Service Funds (USFs). According to a 2018 survey by the National Regulatory Research Institute, 42 states and D.C. have USF programs. Sidelining states was FCC policy in the 2015 Net Neutrality rules, but the same language was missing from FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel's April 4 draft.

08:34:00 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: Drawing little attention, lawyers for cable ISPs Comcast, Charter and Cox urged the FCC to freeze out the states. According to FCC and industry sources, Footnote 1,476 in the final order affirmed the agency's commitment to the 2015 policy, yielding a win for the cable ISPs. Footnote 1,476 reads: "Pursuant to our forbearance from 254(d) to maintain the status quo for contributions based on the provision of [Broadband Internet Access Service], and consistent with the 2015 Open Internet Order, we maintain the status quo with respect to states' ability to impose state-level contribution obligations on the provision of BIAS for state universal service programs."

08:34:15 From Brenna Leasor to Everyone: Reacted to "the FCC in the new N..." with 👍

08:34:22 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: The cable ISPs applauded the FCC's national approach to USF funding. "Despite intense pressure from several public interest and telecom industry groups to allow states to assess broadband subscribers with [USF] fees, the FCC determined that it should forbear from this obligation which could have raised consumer home Internet bills by billions of dollars if approved," an industry source said. In the Net Neutrality rules adopted April 25, the FCC said it would not require broadband ISPs to contribute to the $8.1 billion federal USF either. That pledge was included in the April 4 draft.

08:34:37 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: That's the only update I have and it's from Gigi Sohn

08:35:10 From Brenna Leasor to Everyone: Replying to "That's the only upda..."

Thank you! Somehow forgot about this haha been a long week

08:35:50 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: Replying to "That's the only upda..."

Sure.

08:40:42 From Jennifer Toothaker Mabry to Everyone: Replying to "The cable ISPs appla..."

Is assessing a USF fee something that would normally happen?

08:41:15 From Lucy Howell to Everyone: Replying to "The Information

Tech..."

Interesting...thanks, Mark!

08:41:41 From Jennifer Toothaker Mabry to Everyone: Reacted to "The Information

Tech..." with 👍

08:43:10 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: Replying to "The cable ISPs appla..."

USF fees were largely paid by landline providers and it's running out of funds.

08:43:38 From kirk busch to Everyone: https://www.internationaltelecomsweek.com/

08:45:59 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: US Ignite recently published " Middle Mile as a Catalyst: Municipal Investments for Broadband Equity and Affordability" providing a roadmap for local governments to build a middle-mile network that facilitates affordable and accessible broadband services. Download at https://www.us-ignite.org/tools/playbooks/middle-mile-as-a-catalyst/ FYI.

08:48:45 From bryan carter to Steve Peters(direct message): Hi Steve, I'm sorry, I have to head to a training session...I promise an update at the next meeting ok? Great seeing you and see you next time

08:51:08 From Jennifer Toothaker Mabry to Everyone: Reacted to "US Ignite recently p..." with 👍

08:51:13 From Jennifer Toothaker Mabry to Everyone: Reacted to "https://www.internat..." with 👍

08:52:44 From kirk busch to Everyone: Reacted to "https://www.intern..." with 👍

08:52:45 From kirk busch to Everyone: Removed a 👍 from "https://www.intern..."

08:53:59 From Kelley Boan to Everyone: Replying to "The cable ISPs appla..."

The FCC's position is that they don't have the authority to revise the collection side of USF since it was spelled out in the Telecom Act of 1996. Here's a link to awn open letter SHLB submitted to the Senate Working Group last fall:
https://www.shlb.org/uploads/Policy/National%20BB%20Plan/SHLB%20Responses%20to%20Senate%20USF%20Working%20Group%20RFC%20-%208.25.23.pdf

08:57:38 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: The University of Colorado's Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Policy, and Entrepreneurship has just released "Roundtable Outcomes Report: A Look Ahead to Access and Regulation in the Not-Too-Distant Broadband Future" to better understand the future of broadband regulation after BEAD's implementation emphasizing that policymakers must support additional programs and initiatives alongside and after BEAD. See https://siliconflatirons.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Outcomes-Report_Broadband-Roundtable_2023-12-01.pdf to download the PDF FYI.

08:58:11 From Mark Goldstein to Everyone: Keller & Heckman Telecommunications Practice Group has published a lengthy, insightful blog post "What ISPs Need to Know About the FCC's Title II / Open Internet Order" covering reclassifying "broadband Internet access service" (BIAS) as a "telecommunications service" subject to the jurisdiction of the FCC under Title II of the Communications Act. See https://www.beyondtelecomlawblog.com/what-isps-need-to-know-about-the-fccs-title-ii-open-internet-order/ FYI.

09:02:16 From Lucy Howell to Everyone: Thanks for great info, as always!

09:05:41 From Ilana Lowery to Everyone: Late for another meeting. Thanks all.

09:26:13 From Tina Gounder to Everyone: Thank you, Have a great day!

09:29:30 From Rory Conaway to Everyone: I have to run. Take care!.