

VTC Official meet Congressional Leaders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valley TeleCom Group Officials Meet with Congressional Representatives

Discuss Valley's efforts to bring advanced communications to parts of rural Arizona and New Mexico.

Valley TeleCom Group's Steve Metts, C.E.O. and General Manager, along with David Thompson, Board President, recently met with staff and legislators in Washington, D.C. to discuss the significant impact of small communications providers like Valley TeleCom Group in delivering affordable broadband services to consumers in Southeastern, Arizona and Southwestern, New Mexico.

Valley TeleCom Group's representatives spoke about the importance of broadband for rural business development and growth and also the ways that broadband brings education, public safety, telemedicine and other opportunities to rural consumers. Mr. Metts and Mr. Thompson provided an overview of its service area in Arizona and New Mexico to highlight the types of services it provides to both consumers and businesses in this region as well as pointing to the number of jobs their company provides in these two states and other services that contribute to the area's economic development.

Valley TeleCom Group's representatives urged their congressional delegates to help them continue to provide the services their community needs 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 on the Universal Service Fund (USF). Valley's representatives explained that cuts to this important fund could put existing investment in rural broadband at risk and discourage future investment in new broadband-capable networks by small companies such as Valley, leading to increased rates for telephone, broadband and other services.

Mr. Metts and Mr. Thompson 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 Capitol Hill and the FCC.

About Valley Telephone Cooperative

Valley Telephone Cooperative is a local telecommunications company that provides local phone, long distance, high-speed internet and digital cable television to many residents in Southeastern AZ and Southwestern NM. They have been serving this area since 1962.

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