

January 13, 2005

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**VIA FAX: (202) 228-4450**

Dear Senator Hutchison:

The Texas Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (TATOA) would like to thank you for your strong leadership in protecting the interests of local governments, especially Texas local governments, during the difficult debate of S150.

TATOA, a chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) is a Texas association that represents the telecommunications needs and interests of local governments and those who advise local governments. Our membership is predominately composed of local government agencies, local government staff and public officials, as well as consultants, attorneys, and engineers who consult local governments on their telecommunications needs. Our government members have responsibilities that range from cable television franchising, rights-of-way management and governmental access programming to information technologies. We also have members who are vendors to local governments, and telecommunications providers of all types of services to and for local governments.

Your amendment will protect the municipal access lines fees collected from telecommunications companies for private use of the public rights-of-way, which is vital revenue source for the general operating funds of Texas cities.

What we can be certain of is the fact that the improvements with S. 150 would have never become a reality without your efforts. You and your fine staff worked feverishly to ensure that the legislation would not take for granted the rights of state and local governments to collect reasonable compensation for the use and maintenance of public rights-of-way, and we are extremely grateful.

Please know that we are available to assist you in any way, and thank you again for your effective advocacy on the behalf of Texas cities. Just a reminder that you have an Honorary Membership with TATOA.

If we can ever be of assistance, please contact me at (512) 974-2422.

Sincerely,

Rondella M. Hawkins  
TATOA President