



Testimony in Opposition to LD 536
An Act to Establish Net Neutrality
April 24, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of Consolidated Communications in opposition to LD 536.

Consolidated Communications is highly committed to delivering quality, reliable and affordable broadband internet to our customers. Most important to point out in context of this legislation is that fact that Consolidated Communications does not engage in blocking, throttling, paid prioritization, or prevent any customer from accessing lawful websites.

Consolidated Communications believes that current statutory requirements, which apply to the distribution of state funds to an internet service provider are reasonable. However, expanding the scope of these statutory requirements to the overall provision of broadband internet access service likely exceeds local jurisdiction and falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Section 3 of the proposed amendment is particularly concerning in that it would allow for a private right of action. This provision would allow for parties, including our customers, law enforcement agencies, and regulators to potentially interpret and apply varying interpretations to this law, a result that hinders internet growth and broadband expansion.

We support previous bipartisan FCC decisions that set federal precedent for resisting a patchwork of net neutrality laws among the states, and urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration, and we would be pleased to provide more information at the work session upon your request.

