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## **ALTS HAILS HIGH-SPEED DEPLOYMENT OF COMPETITIVE BROADBAND**

### ***Competitive LECs Demonstrate Commitment to Roll Out New Services Despite Logjam on Tauzin-Dingell Bill H.R. 2420***

**WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 29, 2000** – The Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS) today hailed the continuing explosion of competitive broadband services nationwide, demonstrating that the Tauzin-Dingell broadband bill (H.R. 2420) is unnecessary.

“Week after week, the competitive broadband industry continues to enter new markets, deploy advanced technologies, and serve new customers -- all in the absence of new legislation,” said John D. Windhausen, Jr., President of ALTS, the leading national organization representing facilities-based competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs). “In the face of such overwhelming broadband progress by CLECs, one can only conclude that the Tauzin-Dingell bill is superfluous.”

A list of recent broadband announcements by CLECs demonstrates the pace of their broadband investment and market activities:

- Rhythms NetConnections today debuted DSL services in Birmingham, AL, Louisville, KY and Nashville, bringing total markets served to 55 (June 29)
- HarvardNet completed collocations at 200 Bell Atlantic central offices, and is now adding an average of eight CO interconnections per week (June 27)
- Rhythms launched DSL in Des Moines, Richmond and Greensboro (June 27)
- Concentric expanded DSL into 13 new markets (June 27)
- NewSouth entered the DSL market, offering its new product in 13 markets (June 20)
- Rhythms launched “Virtual Reach,” permitting ISPs to extend network services into remote areas (June 20)

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- New Edge signed line-sharing agreements with Sprint and GTE covering markets in 30 states (June 20)
- ICG, Covad and Jetstream completed Voice over DSL trials in San Francisco and Denver (June 6)
- New Hampshire-based Network Plus announced plans to double its DSL sales force (June 5)

“By exempting the Bell monopolies from their legal obligations to open their markets to competition, HR 2420 would give incumbents a break they don’t deserve. The broadband industry is already booming and would grow even more if the local marketplace was truly open,” said Hollye Doane, Director of Congressional Affairs. “Further, this bill flies in the face of current pro-competitive policy. As the recent collapse of the WorldCom-Sprint merger demonstrates, enforcement authorities such as the U.S. Department of Justice are working to ensure that all markets – including long distance – remain competitive, even without entry by the incumbents or additional legislation.”

ALTS is the leading national industry association whose mission is to promote facilities-based local telecommunications competition. Created in 1987, ALTS has offices in Washington, D.C. and Irvine, California and now represents more than 200 companies that build, own, and operate competitive local networks. For more information on ALTS, contact Crawford Public Relations at 703-318-5460 or visit [www.alts.org](http://www.alts.org).

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