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## **ALTS HAILS FCC BROADBAND REPORT**

### ***Report Confirms 1996 Telecommunications Act Working***

**WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 3, 2000** – The Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS), the leading national organization representing facilities-based competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), hailed the FCC Broadband Report issued today as proof that the 1996 Telecommunications Act is working.

“Broadband is being deployed at an extraordinary rate, and the 1996 Telecommunications Act is largely responsible,” said John D. Windhausen, Jr., President of ALTS. “Once the Act opened the field for competitors, broadband and DSL services emerged from the realm of the privileged few. Competitors are now working as fast as they can to bring broadband to everyone in the nation.”

Windhausen said that close to 400 facilities-based firms have entered the competitive local telecommunications market since the Act was passed and have invested nearly \$30 billion in telecommunications infrastructure. As a result of increased competition, the cost to consumers for a digital subscriber line (DSL) has been reduced to less than \$40 per month in most areas from the pre-Act rates of \$1,000 per month or more.

“This report confirms that competition is the key to ensuring roll-out of broadband services to all Americans,” said Jonathan Askin, ALTS’ General Counsel. “The goal now is to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to promote competition to the fullest extent possible.”

“Recent legislative attempts to rein in competition are the wrong path to take if the goal is to speed the rollout of broadband services,” said Hollye Doane, ALTS’ Director of Congressional Affairs. “The 1996 Act is working and we should stay the course.”

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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