



Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council

Presented by
James Winningham
Council Chairman

www.BroadbandAdvisoryCouncil.arkansas.gov



Arkansas Act 604 of 2007

Created Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council to:

- (1) Monitor the broadband based development efforts of other states and nations in areas such as business, education, and health; and
- (2) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policies related to making affordable broadband available to every Arkansas home and business.



Council Members

Ed Allis

Vice President – Governmental Affairs
AT&T Arkansas
Appointment: Speaker Petrus

Greg Ashcraft

Controller
South Arkansas Telephone Company
Appointment: Speaker Petrus

Dave Burdick

Director
Pine Bluff Jefferson County Library System
Appointment: Governor Beebe

Arl Cope

Vice President
Alliance Communications
Appointment: President Pro Tempore Critcher

Maryce Cunningham (Council Secretary)

Manager
Community & Government Relations
Suddenlink Communications
Appointment: President Pro Tempore Critcher

Jim Dailey

Flake & Kelley
Appointment: Governor Beebe

John Dreher

General Manager
Arkansas/Mississippi Market
CenturyTel
Representing: Arkansas Telecommunications Association

George Hopkins, Esq.

Attorney at Law
Appointment: President Pro Tempore Critcher

Len Pitcock

Executive Director
Arkansas Cable Telecommunications Association
Representing: Arkansas Cable Telecommunications Assoc.

Wendy Wheeler

Vice President, State Government Affairs
Alltel
Appointment: Speaker Petrus

James Winningham (Council Chairman)

Deputy Commissioner Information Services
Arkansas Insurance Department
Appointment: Governor Beebe



ABAC – First Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Act 604 of 2007 created the Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council to advise the Governor and the Legislature on policy related to high-speed Internet service, also called “broadband”.(1) This is the Council’s first policy report. **This brief initial report is submitted to highlight the urgent need for Arkansas to identify funding to begin phase 1 of the Connect Arkansas broadband plan to maintain the momentum initiated by the Governor and the Legislature with the enactment of Act 604.** The funding necessary to move forward with the Arkansas effort amounts to just 1/3 to 1/2 of the \$750,000 required to complete phase 1 of the Connect Arkansas plan. **Such an investment by the State holds the potential of bringing a much larger investment in Arkansas by private industry.** During the first two years private industry invested \$500,000,000 in a similar effort in Kentucky.



ABAC – First Report

Outline of Main Report:

- I - The Economic Impact of Broadband in the United States**
- II - First Broadband Priority for Arkansas**
- III - Second Broadband Priority for Arkansas**
- IV - The Risks of Delay**
- V - The Importance of Broadband to our Students**
- VI - The Threat of Widening Economic Gaps between Different Regions of the State**
- VII - Connect Arkansas and the Need for Funding**

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Questions?