



***“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”***  
***A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals***

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**99-3 TE 1**

**REGULATORY PARITY AND EQUAL ACCESS-TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**WHEREAS:** Existing telecommunications regulations apply only to incumbent providers, and fails to apply on an equitable basis to all providers of telecommunications products and services, and

**WHEREAS:** By not including all providers of telecommunications products and services under this regulatory umbrella there is an unfair advantage given to those unregulated carriers who may select which customers they are willing to serve, and

**WHEREAS:** This regulatory umbrella also significantly limits the incumbent providers to offer service in areas where the cost of delivering such services is high, and

**WHEREAS:** This continues to place undue pressure on incumbent providers, who, since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as amended face considerable challenges in remaining competitive in the communities and regions they are regulated to serve, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that CLUB 20 supports legislation that would create regulatory parity for all providers, which would encourage and promote competition upon telecommunications providers, increase consumer choice, enhance rural economic development, and improve the availability of telecommunications products and services to all rural customers in Western Colorado regardless of provider.

*Adopted March 15, 1999*

*Amended 9/5/08*