

# Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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## Hill Tuesday: Pallone Bill Seeks to Protect Broadcasters Post-Auction

House Commerce's top democrat *Frank Pallone* (NJ) launched a draft bill Tues, the Viewer Protection Act, which allows the FCC to protect the broadcasters that might be affected by the upcoming broadcast incentive auction. The agency is scheduled to start a first-of-its-kind incentive in early 2016 to reallocate broadcast spectrum for mobile broadband use. Post-auction, the Commission will assign many broadcasters that remain on the air to new channels. Pallone's bill will direct the FCC to create a channel repacking plan within 5 months of the conclusion of the incentive auction. The plan will map out how remaining TV stations will be repacked after the auction so broadband consumers can enjoy the benefits of the auction as soon as possible. The FCC will also be given limited flexibility to modify the repacking schedule if necessary to protect broadcast viewers. The bill would also fund a viewer education effort, something FCC chmn *Tom Wheeler* has committed to do. In addition, the bill would create an emergency fund to keep viewers' TVs from going dark. The \$1bn emergency fund can be accessed by the FCC only if viewers face the risk of losing their broadcast signal. "As we approach the Broadcast Incentive Auction, it is critical that we make this transition as seamless as possible for consumers without interruptions in their service... The Viewer Protection Act will help to ensure that viewers' TVs do not go dark because we never know when another emergency might occur. At the same time, my bill will ensure consumers of mobile broadband reap the benefits of the incentive auction as soon as possible," said Pallone in a release. Broadcasters, of course, praised the move. "NAB strongly supports House Commerce Ranking Member Pallone's pro-consumer TV auction discussion draft legislation. Millions of viewers reliant on broadcast television could be seriously harmed if this auction is not handled correctly," NAB evp of communications *Dennis Wharton* said in a statement. Calling Pallone's proposal a "smart, consumer-friendly approach," he said the bill addresses repacking issues that must be solved to have a successful and voluntary incentive auction. Meanwhile, the Communications Subcmte is set to hear 4 communications bills on Jan 12. Among them, the No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act, authored by *Adam Kinzinger* (R-IL), would prevent the FCC from regulating broadband rates following the agency's Title II net neutrality order. Another bill, authored by subcmte chmn *Greg Walden* (R-OR), would make permanent the FCC's temporary exemption from the enhanced disclosure rules for small businesses required by the commission's Open Internet Order. The bill also defines a small busi-

## Cablefax Webinar

### Virtual Reality: Are You Ready to Capitalize on TV's Next Big Leap?

January 19  
2:00-3:30 pm

It's a Brave New VR World out there, and only the distributors, vendors and programmers who truly understand the marketplace will edge out the competition. Join us for this vital download of everything VR, and enter 2016 fully prepared for whatever the future may bring.

Register today at [www.cablefax.com/webinars](http://www.cablefax.com/webinars)

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ness as any provider of broadband Internet access service that has fewer than 1,500 employees, or 500K subs.

**VoIP Debate:** NCTA, ACA and USTelecom teamed up to oppose a coalition of consumer groups' petition for reconsideration of an FCC order regarding ensuring continuity of 911 communications. The agency initially sought comment on the possibility of adoption rules requiring VoIP providers and other non-line-powered fixed voice service to ensure continuity of power for consumer premises equipment (CPE) during power outages. Many cable ops provide VoIP services. The cable/telecom groups, in ex parte filings with the agency, argued that the majority of consumers, even those with landline service, rely on wireless service as their primary ways of communication during a power outage or other emergency. As a result, mandating that they purchase such capability was unnecessary and would place "significant new burdens on consumers and providers of such services," they said. Cable was pleased the FCC eventually adopted rules that require VoIP providers to offer consumers 8 hours of battery backup capability and to notify consumers of their backup power options at the point of purchase for new customers and on an annual basis for all customers. The consumer groups, including the **National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, The Benton Foundation, The Maryland Office of People's Counsel, Public Knowledge, The National Consumer Law Center** (on behalf of its low-income clients), weren't impressed, saying the rules transfer the responsibility for ensuring the reliability of 911 and other emergency voice communications from the provider to the consumer. Many consumers are subscribing to VoIP service that doesn't supply line power, the groups said. The CPEs used for such VoIP services typically require a backup power source such as batteries to function in the event of a power outage, they said. "Therefore, it is important for consumers to have a means to ensure continuity of communications during a power outage." They asked the FCC to reconsider the order and require all VoIP providers to assume responsibility for provisioning backup power that is capable of powering their customers' CPE during the first 8 hours of an outage.

**AT&T Makes Digital Life DTV Compatible:** AT&T continues to integrate DirecTV into its portfolio following its acquisition of the satellite provider. It has made its smart home service Digital Life compatible with DirecTV equipment and has incorporated a Digital Life app into DirecTV's set top box so users can arm, disarm and check the status of the system. Meanwhile, the telco is trailing and planning a commercial launch of a Voice Assistant mobile app this year. The app allows homeowners to speak to the app to control their homes. AT&T is demonstrating Digital Life at CES this week.

**Arris Announces Exec Team:** Following the completion of its acquisition of Pace on Mon, Arris announced its exec team in a company blog post. Bob Stanzione will continue on as chmn/CEO of Arris, along with Dave Potts as evp/CFO. Larry Margolis will lead integration of the combined organization as evp of corporate strategy & administration. Larry Robinson and Bruce McClelland will continue as presidents of their respective business units, which will maintain their current structure: CPE and network & cloud and global services. Ron Coppock will lead the new international sales organization and continue to lead marketing, as pres of international sales and global marketing. Tim O'Loughlin from Pace will bring his sales expertise and relationships to his new role as president, North American sales. Jim Brennan will continue as svp of supply chain and quality, Patrick Macken as svp, general counsel and secretary, and Vicki Brewster as svp of human resources. Finally, Pace's Phil Baldock will serve as Arris' new svp/CIO.

**NY AG Sues:** NY AG Eric Schneiderman filed a lawsuit against fantasy football sites FanDuel and DraftKings, demanding that they return the money they made from daily fantasy football services in the state. The lawsuit, filed last week, asked the companies to return the money to customers who lost it last year. The sites came under scrutiny after allegations that their daily fantasy football games constitute illegal gambling. Both sites argued that daily fantasy is a game of skill, not chance.

**CSG Update:** CSG Ascendon digital services platform now supports a digital membership service offering a huge collection of movies, TV, books, music and apps. The new membership-based streaming service is available in the UK, with consumers having access via the Internet or app, or by streaming content to TV using Apple Airplay or Chromecast.

**Programming:** Showtime will bow political series "The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth" on Jan 17.

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

The doc series is a deep dive into the 2016 presidential race, with weekly half-hour shows airing Jan-Nov.

**Ratings:** Through 30 **NBA** games, **ESPN** and **ABC** are averaging 2.35m in total viewers. That's up 4% from last season. WatchESPN has generated 152K unique viewers per game, up 61% over last year.

**People: One World Sports** named *Todd Myers* to the newly created position of vp of programming, acquisitions and development. Myers joined the net after 16 years at **ESPN**. He was most recently ESPN's dir of programming & acquisition. -- **Nick** prompted *Jennifer Caveza* and *Jon Roman* to head the net's toys and business development group. Caveza was upped to svp, toys and business development, while Roman was promoted to svp, boys toys and business development. They will report to chief marketing officer and head of consumer products for *Nick Pam Kaufman*.

**Editor's Note:** VR is poised to significantly disrupt the entertainment business in 2016 as companies like **Facebook**, **Google** and **Samsung** bring VR products into the mainstream. Join **Cablefax** on Jan 19 for the Virtual Reality Webinar. You will learn VR basics including how the technology works and what content suits it best. Register at: <http://www.cablefax.com/eventsawardswebinars/virtual-reality-webinar>

## Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	01/05 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	01/05 Close	1-Day Ch
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>					
DISH:	57.35	0.06	CSG SYSTEMS:	34.91	(0.02)
ENTRAVISION:	7.16	(0.07)	ECHOSTAR:	37.95	(0.88)
GRAY TELEVISION:	14.81	(0.45)	GOOGLE:	742.58	0.74
MEDIA GENERAL:	15.75	(0.12)	HARMONIC:	3.68	(0.27)
NEXSTAR:	55.64	0.83	INTEL:	33.83	(0.16)
SINCLAIR:	31.00	(0.43)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	59.17	0.47
TEGNA:	24.66	(0.19)	LEVEL 3:	53.74	0.65
<b>MSOS</b>					
CABLE ONE:	429.74	(1.93)	MICROSOFT:	55.05	0.25
CABLEVISION:	31.68	0.06	NETFLIX:	107.66	(2.3)
CHARTER:	175.17	(2.36)	NIELSEN:	46.40	0.73
COMCAST:	55.65	0.01	RENTRAK:	46.09	(0.71)
GCI:	19.81	0.31	SEACHANGE:	6.51	(0.21)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	49.88	(0.61)	SONY:	25.47	0.74
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	41.56	(0.19)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.58	0.06
SHAW COMM:	17.03	(0.22)	TIVO:	8.30	(0.04)
SHENTEL:	20.62	(0.02)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	48.66	(0.58)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	182.93	(0.15)	VONAGE:	5.63	(0.02)
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	26.59	UNCH	YAHOO:	32.20	0.80
AMC NETWORKS:	74.69	(0.7)	<b>TELCOS</b>		
CBS:	46.12	(0.53)	AT&T:	34.59	0.24
CROWN:	5.18	(0.15)	CENTURYLINK:	24.99	(0.12)
DISCOVERY:	26.47	0.06	FRONTIER:	4.72	0.07
DISNEY:	100.90	(2.08)	TDS:	25.15	0.11
GRUPO TELEVISA:	26.56	(0.21)	VERIZON:	46.50	0.63
HSN:	51.46	1.15	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>		
LIONSGATE:	30.46	(0.84)	DOW:	17158.66	9.72
MSG NETWORKS:	20.31	0.08	NASDAQ:	4891.43	(11.66)
SCRIPPS INT:	53.40	(0.44)	S&P 500:	2016.71	4.05
STARZ:	32.61	(0.46)			
TIME WARNER:	65.52	0.60			
VIACOM:	43.32	0.08			
WWE:	17.23	(0.38)			
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
ADVANTAGE:	1.75	(0.05)			
AMDOCS:	53.94	(0.29)			
AMPHENOL:	50.30	(0.57)			
APPLE:	102.71	(2.64)			
ARRIS GROUP:	30.52	0.12			
AVID TECH:	7.71	0.33			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.37	(0.03)			
BROADCOM:	56.37	(1.12)			
CISCO:	26.29	(0.12)			
COMMSCOPE:	25.12	(0.49)			
CONCURRENT:	5.27	(0.14)			
CONVERGYS:	23.93	(0.01)			



### Who deserves to appear in Cablefax's annual power player list?

Every year, Cablefax 100 salutes the most influential cable executives whose leadership continues to take the industry to new heights.

Nominate your colleagues, your boss or even yourself for a coveted spot in the Cablefax 100. It's free to enter – but you must submit your nominations by January 29.

Enter at [www.cablefax.com/eventsawardswebinars/100-nominations-2016](http://www.cablefax.com/eventsawardswebinars/100-nominations-2016)



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Nomination Deadline: January 29 | Free to Enter