



The Friday Report

April 22, 2016

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INDUSTRY NEWS

- FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel's renomination to the Commission was the focus of comments made on the U.S. Senate floor this week, and it wasn't pretty. At issue is a gentleman's agreement between former Majority Leader Harry Reid and the Senator currently holding that post, Mitch McConnell. Reid took the fight to the floor and offered his perspectives that the Senate did Commissioner Mike O'Rielly's nomination several years ago without pairing the nomination with a Democratic nominee as is usually the custom, and that he was promised that Rosenworcel's re-upping would be afforded the same treatment. (Her term expired in June of last year, but she may serve until the end of this Congress). A spokesman for McConnell offered that the nomination has been moved out of committee, but that there are concerns from several Senators which are holding it up. Since she is still serving at the FCC, and her tenure does not end until the end of this session, the spokesman called Reid's barbs "disappointing."

CONGRESS

- The FBI should have the resources necessary to access smartphones and not be forced to hire hackers to do it. So said several witnesses at a House Energy and Commerce Committee oversight and investigations subcommittee hearing on Tuesday. A review of the hearing appearing in a TRDaily article which excerpted comments from a Keystone State source, University of Pennsylvania professor Matthew Blaze. The professor noted that the bureau "either had – or devoted insufficient resources to – finding a solution" to the smartphone issue which was the focus of the San Bernardino terrorist investigation. FBI director James Comey said yesterday that the bureau paid more than \$1.3 million to gain access to the phone.

THE DAILY NUMBER

- 24.2

A study commissioned by the Foundation for Rural Service and conducted by the Hudson Institute estimates that rural broadband companies contributed \$24.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 2015. The research found that over \$100 billion in e-commerce was supported by rural telecom, the largest share of which was the manufacturing sector.

QUOTABLE

- *“This is not some bargaining tactic. There are serious safety problems.”*
- *“We think this entire episode was intended to be a distraction. CWA’s complaints are baseless and we’ll respond accordingly.”*

The respective comments of Communications Workers of America counsel Scott Rubin and Verizon spokesman Richard Young regarding the PUC’s action yesterday moving the union’s request for an investigation into the company’s proper maintenance of its facilities from an investigation into a complaint which will be heard before a Commission administrative law judge.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Comtec Sales is a leading manufacturers representative agency of communications products in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States. We represent high quality products used in the communications industry. Comtec Sales provides sales support, technical evaluation and field support for the manufacturers we represent and technicians and management teams using our products. Companies represented include Hubbell Power Systems, Dura-Line, Jameson, All Systems Broadband, Copperhead, U-Teck, William Frick, Rainbow Technology, Erico, Pelsue and Puregas.

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