



The Friday Report

August 26, 2016



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INDUSTRY NEWS

- No one expected the recent federal court decision regarding state laws which prohibit municipal broadband networks to be the final word on the matter, and this week's return volley from Next Century Cities is evidence that this topic will garner serious media coverage in the near-term. NCC helped organize the signators to a letter sent to the mayors of Chattanooga and Wilson, NC pledging support for their efforts. The correspondence was signed by 42 mayors across the country.
- A program dubbed "Cool and Connected" by the Obama administration was unveiled on Wednesday, and two cities in Pennsylvania are slated to receive federal funding to expand broadband. The Environmental Protection Agency, Agriculture Department and Appalachian Regional Commission are the driving forces behind the program which seeks to funnel revenue into Appalachian communities hit hard by the decline in coal mining operations. On the fund list for PA are Clarion and Curwensville, both in Verizon territory.

CONGRESS

- No official notice as of press time, but word has it that the Senate Commerce Committee is poised to haul all five FCC Commissioners up on the hill for an oversight hearing. Potential topics may include set-top-boxes, broadband privacy, and business data services among others.

THE DAILY NUMBER

- 36,800,000,000

According to a new report from Tractica, revenue from Artificial Intelligence applications will grow from \$643.7 million this year, to \$36.8 billion by 2025. The report identifies 191 real-world cases organized into 27 different industry sectors.

QUOTABLE

- “In the Spectrum Act of 2012, Congress charged the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) with establishing a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. A nationwide network necessarily includes coverage of rural areas. Although this *Order* does not adopt a specific rule that requires FirstNet to meet rural deployment benchmarks, I’m satisfied that we have made substantial progress in this regard. The *Order* makes clear that FirstNet has a statutory duty to ensure substantial rural coverage. It recognizes that FirstNet has incorporated rural coverage benchmarks into its procurement process. And it specifically states that the FCC will monitor deployment in rural areas in order to ensure that FirstNet has met its legal obligations. These steps are critical to promoting public safety.”

Excerpt from a statement by FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai regarding the Commission’s review of state opt-out requests of the FirstNet program.