



# The Friday Report

July 26, 2019

## INDUSTRY NEWS

- The topic of pole attachments was part of a discussion during a panel on Wireless Deployment and 5G Wireless during the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) summer policy summit. Rick Cimerman, VP-external affairs at NCTA, pointed to a report recently filed by NCTA on pole attachment rates, which the group said showed the monopoly pole attachment rates charged by municipal and cooperative electric companies were higher than the rates charged by investor-owned utilities. In some states, cooperative electric companies were charging more than triple the amount charged by investor-owned utilities for access to poles. The report went on to say that the significant disparity in rates cannot be explained by differences in economic costs' and instead is attributable to the fact that rates charged by municipal and cooperative electric companies are not subject to regulation pursuant to section 224 of the Communications Act.

## CONGRESS

- The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the "Stopping Bad Robocalls Act" to better detect and reduce illegal robocalls (see Quotable). Only two months ago, the U.S. Senate approved the US Telecom-backed Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act. The bill will help beat back the robocall threat and boost the industry's call authentication and traceback work. The bill now head to a congressional conference committee to resolve differences.
- The Senate Commerce Committee recently passed legislation aimed at making broadband maps more accurate by setting up parameters for the Federal Communications Commission to act and for groups to challenge the FCC's maps.

## THE DAILY NUMBERS

- 600,000,000

A Monday news release from PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced that Equifax will pay \$600 million (\$425 million into a Consumer Restitution Fund and \$175 million to the states) for its 2017 data breach which affected 147 million customers across the country. Fifty Attorneys General filed a multi-state investigation into the breach and Pennsylvania is set to receive \$7.3 million of the payout.

## QUOTABLE

- *“The tide is turning on criminals who scam, spoof and rip-off millions of American consumers, and today the House put offenders on notice. The powerful new tools approved by Congress will help beat back the robocall threat and boost the industry’s call authentication and traceback work in important ways. Special thanks to Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden and all the members of Congress who listened to their constituents and backed this anti-robocall plan.”*

Comments from USTelecom president and CEO, Jonathan Spalter on the “Stopping Bad Robocalls” Act recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.