



## TENNESSEE CABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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### **“UH....CAN I GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT?”**

As AT&T lobbyists and employees stroll Legislative Plaza in support of SB 1933/HB1421, reporters, legislators and staff members might ask them a few questions:

- If AT&T really wants to compete in the video business in Tennessee, why hasn't it applied for local franchises throughout the state?
- Why is AT&T so opposed to making video service available to all Tennesseans?
- Why is AT&T's key argument about driving down cable prices, when the company's own CEO/Chairman said in 2006 and again early this year that "we're not going to chase (price) down, or certainly don't have any plans to do that," and, according to Bank of America, prices in markets where it has U-Verse are actually increasing?

"If AT&T today sent its employees to city halls in Tennessee's 95 counties to apply for a local franchise, the company would be providing video services across the state before kids get out of school for summer break," said Stacey Briggs, executive director for Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Association.

"The law allows AT&T and any other company to get a local franchise and compete in the industry. This can be done today without any approval by the Tennessee General Assembly," Briggs said. "This local franchise law exists to protect consumers by requiring companies make service available to all households and protects local governments and taxpayers by ensuring quality of service and enforcement over public-right-of-way. AT&T wants a special law so that it can dodge the expense of building networks to serve all customers and just provide service to the affluent. This is a shortcut that will shortchange consumers."

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