



Communications Daily

THE AUTHORITATIVE NEWS SERVICE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012

VOL. 32, NO. 236

TODAY'S NEWS

THUNE AS RANKING MEMBER

likely on Senate Commerce with DeMint resigning. (P. 1)

FCC NET NEUTRALITY WIN would likely mean more Internet regulation, Pai warns. (P. 3)

AWS-4 ORDER OK SEEN at next FCC meeting, maybe without latest Dish proposal in it. (P. 4)

MVPDs EXPAND ENERGY efficiency to DBS, telcos, deep-sleep cable boxes in 2016. Advocates unsatisfied. (P. 5)

AT&T'S PROPOSAL to open proceeding on IP transition, eliminate legacy rules slammed by CLECs. (P. 7)

FTC FOCUS ON USE, not collection, of consumer online data, asked for at agency workshop. (P. 9)

NG-911 POSES OBSTACLES of funding, jurisdiction, NCSL told. (P. 11)

T-MOBILE TO BEGIN OFFERING unspecified Apple products in 2013, in bid to stay competitive and poach customers from AT&T. (P. 12)

MPAA CHAIRMAN 'OPTIMISTIC' Copyright Alert System can reduce digital copyright infringement, he says. (P. 13)

DeMint Departure Leaves Thune Senior Senate Commerce Republican

The unexpected retirement of Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., leaves an opening for the top minority post on the Senate Commerce Committee that Republican observers said could be filled by Sen. John Thune, R-S.D. DeMint was the third-most senior Republican in the committee after the retiring Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas) and Olympia Snowe (Maine). The two-term Republican senator from South Carolina announced his retirement Thursday morning to become the president of the Heritage Foundation beginning in January. "I'm leaving the Senate now, but I'm not leaving the fight," DeMint said in a news release (<http://xrl.us/bn47jp>). Republican Gov. Nikki Haley is to name DeMint's successor for the remaining two years of his term.

Thune becomes the highest-seniority Republican on the committee. He's a likely candidate to become ranking member next Congress, Capitol Hill and industry officials said. Thune declined comment on whether he could become committee ranking member, saying only: "There is a process for these assignments that will play out and I look forward to discussing this development with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee." Committee roles are generally determined via seniority, but Republicans vote on their chairmen and ranking members, and could theoretically choose someone else, an industry source said. The hierarchy for the returning GOP committee members is: Sens. Thune, Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Roy Blunt of Missouri, John Boozman of Arkansas, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Marco Rubio of Florida, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Dean Heller of Nevada.

Thune is the ranking member of the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, of the Finance Subcommittee on International Trade and of the Agriculture Subcommittee on En-