



The Institute for Policy Innovation

Third Annual Communications Summit

Event Recap

IPI's Third Annual Communications Summit was held in Washington DC, March 3, 2011. The program was a collaborative effort with the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI).

The objective of the program was to bring together policy organizations and prominent thought leaders from across the ideological spectrum in an unprecedented way in collaboration on the future of and current issues facing the wireless and broadband industries.



▲ In her keynote speech, FCC Commissioner Meredith Baker outlined a plan to overhaul and streamline the FCC merger review process. Baker said the current process, which requires multiple agencies to review mergers, takes far longer than necessary and discourages investment in telecommunications. ([click here to read the transcript of the speech.](#))



▲ With over 100 in attendance, the summit audience included media, Hill staff, executive branch federal employees, foreign embassy staff, and many others.



◀ Ambassador Phil Verveer, current U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy joined with former Bush administration counterpart Ambassador David Gross, ▶ in an exclusive conversation sharing their insight of wireless and innovation from a global perspective. The discussion was moderated by Chris Boam, Verizon Communications' International Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs director.



▶ Congressman Marsha Blackburn (TN-7), a member of the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee, discussed in her keynote address a resolution being taken up on Capitol Hill that would block the Federal Communications Commission's network neutrality rules.





▲ In a panel moderated by Carolyn Brandon, Free State Foundation president Randolph May, ITIF's Richard Bennett and Internet industry analyst Larry Downes discussed the effects of regulation on network innovation.

► Former Congressman Rick Boucher provided his insight into what the top three communications issues would be taken up by Congress this year, including the topic of privacy.



► PPI's Dr. Michael Mandel joined with fellow analysts Drs. John B. Horrigan of TechNet and Navigant Economics' Jeffrey Eisenach to examine the communications sector as a force for economic growth.



◄ Author, entrepreneur, and Arts+Labs advisor Andrew Keen called for stronger IP protections in his address, urging policy-makers to crack down on rogue websites designed to facilitate illegal pirated content.

Furthering the Message:

Nearly a dozen news articles were written as a result of the program. These stories included*:

Politico's Morning Tech: "Babies and Books? Keen on IP"

National Journal: "FCC's Baker Proposes Merger Review Changes"

Communications Daily: "Baker Calls for Major Changes to FCC Merger Policy"

Broadcasting & Cable: "Baker Outlines Framework for Merger Review Process"

National Journal: "Panel Agrees to Dems' Request for Net Neutrality Hearing"

Broadcast Breakfast: "FCC Commissioner Baker Outlines Plan for Merger Review Overhaul"

National Journal: "Boucher Appears Unlikely to Seek Senate Seat"

Telecommunications Reports Daily: "Baker Calls for Swifter, More Focused Merger Reviews"

Communications Daily Telecom AM: "Baker Wants to Change FCC Merger Reviews"

Radio World: "Baker Wants to Overhaul FCC Merger Reviews"

Anderson@Large: "Privacy and the Social Web"

SNL Kagan Media & Communications Report: "Boucher: Privacy, Spectrum Auction Legislation Could Manage to Pass Divided Congress"

SNL Kagan Media & Communications Report: "FCC Merger Review Process Has 'Gone Astray'"

*you can click on the title of the article to follow the hyperlink to the full text.