

# ROY BLUNT

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR MISSOURI



## **Encouraging Innovation & Competition, Protecting Local Broadcasters from Government Overreach**

### **Promoting Broadband throughout Missouri**

- Senator Blunt serves as a senior member of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over our nation's technology and telecommunications policy
- Senator Blunt knows that access to high-speed Internet, commonly known as broadband, is essential to innovation and economic prosperity
- Senator Blunt has personally contacted the Federal Communications Commission to express support for policies that focus limited taxpayer funds on unserved rural Missourians to expand access to broadband and allow these areas to benefit from the digital economy

### **Keeping the Federal Government Out of the Broadband Marketplace**

- The rapid expansion and evolution of broadband networks has been a continuous driver of economic growth, and has added to the efficiencies and competitiveness of every sector of our nation's economy
- Senator Blunt opposes the Obama administration's efforts to regulate the highly competitive broadband marketplace like a monopoly-era telephone network
- Senator Blunt has called on the administration to work with Congress on a bipartisan basis to update our telecommunications laws in order to spur private-sector investment, promote more competition, and enable innovation and job growth across Missouri and the country

### **Keeping the Federal Government Out of News Rooms and Editorial Decisions**

- Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are fundamental rights enshrined in our nation's Constitution
- Senator Blunt fiercely protects these rights from intrusion by the federal government
- In 2014, the FCC announced plans to encroach on newsrooms' editorial decisions, including highly inappropriate questions of news editors
- Senator Blunt took the lead and, working with his colleagues, stopped the FCC from moving forward with its blatant attempt to stifle free speech

### **Protecting Local Broadcasters from Government Overreach**

- Communities across Missouri rely on their local broadcasters for news, weather, emergency information, and local coverage
- Many broadcasters, particularly in small- and medium-sized markets, rely on contractual arrangements to jointly sell advertising time
- The financial savings that result from these agreements have helped expand diversity, localism, and have even saved some stations from going dark
- Senator Blunt introduced the Joint Sales Agreements Act to protect these private contracts from being repealed by the FCC