

ADP

Association of Directory Publishers

ADVISORY

To: All U.S. ADP Members

From: Larry Angove

Date: March 22, 2002

cc:

Re: Tauzin-Dingell Legislation

MESSAGE

As chair of ADP's Public Policy Committee, I have been closely monitoring, with the professional assistance of Willkie Farr & Gallagher and Podesta Mattoon in Washington, D.C., movement on HR 1542.

HR 1542 is characterized as a partial rewrite of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and is commonly referred to as "Tauzin-Dingell," after its primary sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HR 1542 essentially pits the RBOCs against AT&T in the mother of all telecomm battles. The issue addressed in Tauzin-Dingell is broadband access. Its opponents believe that passage of the bill will stifle competition and threaten to restore to some degree monopoly status in some areas of telecommunications for the RBOCs.

Good news for independent publishers! Throughout the committee process in the House, no amendments have been discussed or submitted that would directly impact us. Specifically, Section 222(e) has not been challenged and remains intact.

HR 1542 was passed in the House on February 28, 2002 by a vote of 273-157, again without any provisions that might directly impact us. It appears that the bill is now stalled in the U.S. Senate and may not come out this session.

This entire issue is highly controversial and fiercely contentious. Since the protections afforded us in the Act in 1996 are unchallenged, it is the recommendation of counsel that ADP and its members remain uninvolved in the debate.

ADP will, of course, continue to monitor the debate. Though there are no assurances, it is unlikely that amendments directly impacting us would be introduced at this point in the process.

Be assured that if any need arises for grassroots contacts between our members and their congressional representatives, you will be advised immediately. Until then, it appears wisest for us to sit on the sidelines on this one.

If you have any reason to believe that any provisions of Tauzin-Dingell may have a negative impact on your directory publishing business, please let me hear immediately.