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July 15, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U. S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U. S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U. S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
U. S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leaders McConnell & Boehner:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to respectfully request your leadership in the coming weeks in efforts to adopt legislation that will institute broadband mapping nationwide.

There are a number of pieces of legislation currently pending on this subject that we have supported which would authorize a nationwide program similar to the highly successful public-private partnership exemplified by the ConnectKentucky effort. TIA has been a strong supporter of broadband mapping efforts like that in the Senate bill, S. 1492, "The Broadband Data Improvement Act" authored by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Inouye and a similar bill, H.R. 3919, "The Broadband Census of America Act" authored by House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Chairman Markey, which was passed by the House earlier this fall. These efforts to determine the need and distribution of broadband in America are critical as Congress seeks to create incentives for investment.

TIA has long-advocated for the ubiquitous deployment of next-generation broadband networks, as they directly impact the productivity of our industries and our economy, and pivotally affect public safety, education, health care, and countless other functions in our daily lives. Such capability will equip every person with the tools necessary to compete in the 21st century, making them far more productive, increasing their standard of living, and enhancing economic and physical security

As Congress moves towards the August Recess, we respectfully request that you continue your leadership in the area of bringing broadband to rural America and take action to enact broadband mapping legislation in the near term. Thank you for your leadership and continued attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Seiffert
President, TIA