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December 16, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect of the United States of America
Office of the President-Elect
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Mr. President-Elect,

On behalf of the over 500 member companies of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency. Your Presidential Campaign has had a transformative effect on our Nation during these challenging economic times. In your compelling remarks on election night, you spoke of a “new energy to harness.” The member companies of TIA are excited to work with you and your Administration on policies that will allow the country to harness the “new energy” of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry to promote innovation and economic expansion in the first year of your Presidency.

TIA companies lead the consumer and business revolution being built on the world’s broadband networks. For over 80 years, we have represented the ICT industry through standards development, advocacy, tradeshows, business opportunities, market intelligence and world-wide environmental regulatory analysis. TIA enhances the business environment for broadband, mobile wireless, information technology, networks, cable, satellite and unified communications. The products and services of our member companies empower consumers in every industry and market, including healthcare, education, security, public safety, transportation, government, the military, the environment and entertainment.

From your first speech as a candidate in Springfield and throughout your campaign, your vision called on America to lead the world in broadband penetration and Internet access. TIA commends your focus on the advancement of technology and furtherance of broadband deployment. You rightly noted that the ubiquitous deployment of next-generation networks directly impacts the productivity of our industries and our economy, and pivotally affects public safety, education, health care, and countless other functions in our daily lives.

The member companies of TIA could not agree more. We want to work together to realize your goal of a modern communications infrastructure deployed for all Americans, no matter where they live; what their economic status; what language they speak; and what special needs they might have. A modern communications infrastructure that can deliver broadband to all Americans can form a solid foundation for many of your important policy goals and objectives. TIA looks forward to supporting your Administration in its effort to implement these policies that stimulate investment, innovation, and the availability of new products and services.

In these difficult economic times, TIA has looked closely at the ICT industry to see how its member companies can facilitate a rapid recovery and promote the continued expansion of the Nation’s information and communications infrastructure. TIA hopes to partner with Congress and federal agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Department of Commerce, to create policies that deliver on the promise of broadband technology for the American people. TIA has developed a series of objectives and priorities to assist your Administration in promote policies to ensure the ICT sector continues to move forward. The enclosed document, *The Promise of Broadband and the ICT Industry: Bridging Gaps, Boosting Economies*, provides guidance and support for a policy framework that promotes a modern communications infrastructure.



More specifically, TIA looks forward to working with you and your Administration on the following priorities:

- 1) Enhancing efforts to stimulate investment, innovation, and promotion of next-generation broadband deployment.
- 2) Advocating for forward-looking spectrum management, the allocation of additional spectrum for advanced wireless services on a technology-neutral basis, and the smooth digital television transition scheduled for February 17, 2009.
- 3) Providing persons with disabilities access to information through reasonable policies.
- 4) Facilitating open and fair market access for U.S. companies by promoting full, fair and open trade and competition in international markets.
- 5) Increasing the amount of federal funding dedicated to long-term, pro-competitive, communications network-specific basic research.
- 6) Promoting the development of an interoperable public safety network capable of protecting all communities in the event of further domestic disasters.
- 7) Encouraging maintenance and development of administrative and legislative initiatives that focus on broadband roll-out in rural areas.

In addition to these important goals, in the short term, we respectfully ask that you call on Congress to include broadband incentives in any new economic stimulus package – a recommendation echoed by the Nation’s Governors when you met with them earlier this month. In October, TIA sent a letter to the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional leadership calling for the inclusion of broadband deployment incentives as part of any such package. The deployment and use of broadband will significantly enhance job growth well beyond the impact of the infrastructure itself and will be a key step in your broader information and technology agenda. Now is the time to make this critical investment in the long-term economic future of our country.

Finally, we respectfully request that as you consider candidates who recognize and will enact measures to achieve these objectives as you seek to fill key posts in your Administration, including those within the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Trade Representative and a Chief Technology Officer.

Mr. President-Elect, thank you for your attention to these important issues during your extraordinary Presidential Campaign. We applaud your message of hope and change and look forward to working with you as President to ensure that the American ICT industry remains the leader and envy of the world.

Very truly yours,

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

Grant Seiffert
TIA President