



October 30, 2008

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

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

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

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to urge you to include broadband deployment incentives in any future economic stimulus bill that the Congress may consider. Including broadband incentives in a stimulus package would further a number of important goals and priorities of the Congress and provide substantial benefits to all Americans.

Broadband networks directly impact the productivity of our industries and our economy, and pivotally affect public safety, education, health care, and countless other functions in Americans' daily lives. Like any other infrastructure project, the deployment and use of broadband will significantly increase and maintain job growth and well beyond the initial investment in the infrastructure itself. Now is the time to invest in the long-term economic future of our country. As noted by Connected Nation earlier this year in their report, "The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally", "just a 7 percentage point increase in broadband adoption could result in \$134 billion per year in total direct economic impact" to the United States. This includes \$662 million saved per year in healthcare costs.

Under your leadership this year, Congress has passed an energy bill that aims to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil; increased broadband deployment furthers this goal. A 2007 American Consumer Institute Study found that "in total, use of broadband networks can decrease our dependence on oil up to 11 percent in the next ten years." Additionally, according to Connected Nation's report, a 7 percentage point increase in broadband adoption could have a resulting savings of \$6.4 billion per year in miles not driven and a corresponding \$18 million in carbon credits associated with 3.2 billion fewer pounds of CO² emissions per year in the United States.

Recognizing that Congress is also concerned about the decline in nationwide home values, broadband deployment can also play a role here. A December 2005 report published in the journal Broadband Properties, "Measuring Broadband's Economic Impact," finds that broadband "enhances economic activity, helping to promote job creation both in terms of the total number of jobs and the number of establishments in communities with broadband." It was further found that broadband does indeed have an impact on "residential property values which are higher in broadband-enabled communities."

The inclusion of incentives for broadband investment in any upcoming stimulus package will provide significant motivation for the deployment of both current and next generation broadband. This Congress has made increasing America's competitiveness a priority and the enactment of this provision is a key part of that effort.

TIA represents the global information and communications technology (ICT) industry through standards development, advocacy, tradeshow, business opportunities, market intelligence and world-wide environmental regulatory analysis. With roots dating back to 1924, TIA enhances the business environment for broadband, mobile wireless, information technology, networks, cable, satellite and unified communications. Members' products and services empower communications in every industry and market, including healthcare, education, security, public safety, transportation, government, the military, the environment and entertainment.

As the Leadership begins to consider measures that should be part of an economic stimulus package, I respectfully request that you support the inclusion of broadband deployment incentives in the final package. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Seiffert
President