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May 12, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy & Ranking Member Sessions:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I write to offer our support for S. 167, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2009" authored by Senator Kohl. TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology industry, with over 500 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in the provision of broadband and broadband-enabled applications.

As introduced, S. 167 will expand flexibility for the use of COPS grants to benefit public safety organizations, and authorizes up to \$1.15 billion in funding in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014. The bill also contains a number of public safety improvements including: (1) funding for the collaboration between public safety and local school systems on school safety, (2) authorizing the Attorney General to make technology grants to assist state and local agencies in focusing on crime prevention; and (3) providing funding for training on the use of technologies deployed. TIA members strongly support the inclusion of funding for technology grants and hope that upon passage, the Justice Department will prioritize the awarding of technology grants to allow for a faster deployment of much needed interoperable communications technology.

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. For over 80 years, TIA has enhanced 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.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

Grant Seiffert
President

cc: U.S. Senator Herb Kohl
U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner