



February 23, 2009

Dr. Arden L. Bement
Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Rm 1205 N
Arlington, VA 22230

Mr. Ted Wackler
Acting Director
Office of Science & Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW, Rm. 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Bement and Acting Director Wackler,

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association I am writing to urge you to initiate the necessary administrative steps to establish the Presidential Advisory Committee on High-Performance Computing as created by P.L. 110-69, the America COMPETES Act.

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.

TIA's members were active during the formulation of the COMPETES Act and believe strongly that this advisory committee is critical as the National Science Foundation works to determine priorities so that limited federal investment in computing and networking research can be used to best effect. As you may recall, Section 7024(b) directs the establishment of:

“an advisory committee on high-performance computing, consisting of geographically dispersed non-Federal members including representatives of the research, education, and library communities, network and related software providers and industry representatives in the Program Component Area, who are specially qualified to provide the Director with advice and information on high-performance computing.”

Additionally as per this section, the advisory committee was to have submitted the first report to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate in August of 2008.

As you know, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act executive action must be taken to establish the Presidential Advisory Committee. However, by our review only some of these activities have already been completed. For example, the Advisory Committee has



already been specifically authorized by statute under the High Performance Computing Act (as amended by P.L. 110-69). Further, we believe that several of the charter requirements have already been established, including the committee's objectives and scope of its activity and a description of duties for which the committee is responsible for.

As you set out to determine the priorities for NSF and the President's science agenda, and the priorities for the additional funding given to NSF in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, TIA's members respectfully encourage you to take the steps necessary to establish this advisory committee which we believe to be key to maintaining America's leadership in the area of computing and networking. Our membership would be pleased to assist in any way possible and could also recommend several industry representatives who would be outstanding candidates for membership on the advisory committee and who could offer key insights as to the gaps in existing research.

I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and our membership stands ready to assist in your efforts in any way possible.

Best regards,

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

Grant Seiffert
President