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## Advancing Global Communications

December 8, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 600 member companies of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I applaud your efforts as President of the United States in cultivating an environment that promotes innovation and economic expansion in the communications industry. As you know, TIA member companies manufacture or supply the products and services used in global communications across all technology platforms. TIA looks forward to continuing our working relationship with your Administration to implement policies that accelerate opportunities for competition, consumer choice, connectivity, and deployment of new technologies.

Throughout your presidency, we have requested your leadership in shaping a political and economic landscape that promotes universal broadband deployment and the emergence of innovative products and services. Our industry is deeply pleased by the momentum and emphasis you have placed on universal access to broadband connectivity; your establishment of a hard date for the transition from analog to digital television (DTV) in 2009; and your focus on spectrum efficiency. We also are grateful for the tireless efforts of your appointed leadership at the Departments of Commerce and State, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. President, we believe your call for universal access to broadband connectivity by 2007 has been answered by steps in the right direction. Broadband deployment is at an all-time high, evidenced by increasing prevalent innovative services such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), as well as the spurred deployment of 3G wireless, Wi-Fi and WiMAX, HDTV, fiber, satellite communications, wireless, and broadband over power lines. Broadband connections have surpassed dial-up; revenues from VoIP reached \$2.1 billion in 2006; and the number of U.S. wireless subscribers reached 226.5 million in 2006.

Our nation's next-generation communications infrastructure and its overlying services and applications will fuel job growth, bring enormous economic benefits to the U.S. and the world, and improve the quality of life for all consumers. Further, broadband deployment is essential to establishing advanced networks to enhance public safety and homeland security. Accordingly, TIA commends your dedication to broadband deployment.

We also commend your Administration for further encouraging the removal of barriers to broadband deployment, and we look forward to continued legislative and regulatory measures consistent with a "light-touch" approach. The United States is consistently solidifying its place in the world broadband market, but we must work together to continually improve this status. TIA looks forward to the opportunity to work with you to remove barriers to entry in order to foster competition, innovation and investment in emerging products and services. This will lead to better choices and more affordable broadband services for all consumers.

Importantly, we applaud your Administration's initiative in effective spectrum management; specifically, the passage of legislation setting a date for the DTV transition. As a result, Congress has set aside the 700 MHz band, 24 MHz for public safety uses and 84 MHz for commercial services – the latter to be auctioned off no later than January 28, 2008. This spectrum is critical to the interoperability of the public safety networks and the deployment of new technologies. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the spectrum auctions will raise approximately \$12.5 billion – a substantial portion of which has been committed to first responder initiatives. I urge this Administration to preserve the dates already established by the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress because any delay will, in turn, delay the more efficient use of this spectrum and threaten the timely deployment of state-of-the-art, interoperable communications networks needed by our first responders.

The essential elements of a national strategy to foster telecommunications innovation and investment include:

- Avoiding overly burdensome legislation that will hinder the future of broadband and broadband-enabled services
- Expediting the auctions for the 700 MHz spectrum, which will free valuable spectrum for interoperable public safety communications networks and commercial advanced commercial wireless services
- Adhering to the February 18, 2009 date for the transition to digital television
- Continuing to foster a deregulatory environment
- Remove additional barriers to entry in the broadband marketplace
- Appropriating/budgeting for additional targeted federal funding for basic communications research needs

Mr. President, TIA is convinced your leadership on this framework will facilitate an environment in which each of these goals is fully achievable. We appreciate your consideration of our suggestions and thank you for your commitment to foster a climate that will allow the U.S. communications industry to lead the world market.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Flanigan  
TIA President