



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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August 16, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
Unites States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
Unites States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Frist and Reid:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I strongly urge you to bring forward and support telecom reform legislation, the "Communications Act of 2006." This bill must pass through the Senate now and be signed by the President in order for the U.S. to see renewed investment in broadband networks and long-overdue competition in the video marketplace, ensuring lower prices and better services for consumers.

As you know, TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology industry, with 600 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used to provide, and used in conjunction with, broadband-enabled services. Please find an attached list of TIA member companies. The telecom reform legislation that was passed by the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation includes provisions that would be beneficial to TIA members, consumers, and the U.S. economy. Consistent with *TIA's Policy Proposal on Video Programming Distribution*, this bill includes a streamlined video franchise system that will be managed by the FCC with limited input by existing local franchise authorities. In addition, *TIA's Broadband Internet Access Connectivity Principles* reflect what we believe should guide policy decisions regarding net neutrality; this bill includes provisions that attempt to protect these important consumer interests. Our view is that the principles we offer provide an evenhanded and practical approach to this debate.

We urge you to allow time for floor debate on this legislation, as many provisions contain pro-consumer efforts to stimulate innovation, investment and job growth in the U.S. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Seiffert, Executive Vice President, at 703-907-7722, or Danielle Jafari, Senior Director and General Counsel of Government Affairs, at 703-907-7734.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Flanigan
President



The Telecommunications Industry Association represents the communications sector of

