



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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July 20, 2007

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
2232 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I would like to express our support for H.R. 694, the *Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Act of 2007*. In the world of technology convergence, next-generation networks are revolutionizing the way that we communicate with one another. It is imperative that all Americans have equal access to new technologies in order for the United States to compete in the global marketplace.

TIA is highly supportive of H.R. 694, which would provide up to \$250 million in grants for minority-serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and Hispanic-serving institutions. This bill authorizes grants to minority-serving institutions for technology upgrades and infrastructure, in addition to providing educational services for technology degrees and educator training.

With research being the backbone of the information communication technology (ICT) sector, TIA applauds this bill as it will help to foster the use of ICT to increase engineering, math and science research. This bill will improve minority serving institutions capacity to present students with access to information technologies to help close the digital divide and provide students with the tools necessary to be competitive in the 21st century job market.

We thank you for you leadership and look forward to working closely with you on passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Grant Seiffert
President