



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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August 27, 2007

The Honorable Rick Boucher
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I write to offer our support for your "Community Broadband Act of 2007." This bill would help to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and reliable broadband services by preventing state prohibition of municipal broadband deployment, and by encouraging public and private partnerships in deploying our Nation's next-generation broadband infrastructure.

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 in global communications. The demand for broadband and high-speed services has grown exponentially as carriers invest in new fiber, new IP technology and new wireless infrastructure to provide state-of-the-art voice, video and data services. Highly advanced and secure communications services should be available to all Americans.

TIA has long-supported municipal broadband deployment. Many TIA members sell their products and equipment supporting broadband communications networks to both public and private parties. The Communication Broadband Act of 2007 reaches the right balance in prohibiting state legislation that would impede local governments from deploying advanced communications networks, while preventing discrimination against private sector suppliers.

We commend your leadership and efforts in shedding light on this very important issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the bill's passage.

Sincerely,

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

Grant Seiffert
President