



March 30, 2004

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State & the Judiciary  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State & the Judiciary  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Wolf and Serrano:

As Congress begins its Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget process, the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) would like to express its strong support for full funding of the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). TIA represents nearly 700 manufacturers and suppliers of communications equipment, and our companies support thousands of jobs in the U.S., many of which have benefited from the ATP program.

We believe that the United States must demonstrate strong leadership in the area of science and technology innovation and development. This means that our country must remain committed to initiatives that will foster innovation, promote telecommunications research and development and provide benefits to consumers. The ATP, administered by the National Institutes on Standards and Technology (NIST) within the Department of Commerce, clearly meets these goals and objectives. Unfortunately, the President's FY2005 budget submission to Congress proposes to eliminate the program completely. We hope that you will work with your colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee to reject that proposal and support full funding for this highly regarded critical program.

The Advanced Technology Program has been a valuable vehicle for many TIA member companies that are committed to performing high-risk technology development. We urge you to restore and fully fund this program at its FY2004 level, at a minimum.

Thank you for your consideration of funding this critical research and development program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew J. Flanigan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'M' and 'F'.

Matthew J. Flanigan  
President

2500 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201-3834  
USA

+1.703.907.7700  
FAX +1.703.907.7727