



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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May 5, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Hastert and Congresswoman Pelosi:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I urge you to support the "Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement Act," H.R. 5252, which the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved on April 26. The passage of this legislation will lead to renewed investment in broadband networks and bring long-overdue competition to the video marketplace, delivering lower prices and better service to consumers.

We were heartened that the Committee rejected amendments that would have created onerous regulations. Instead, the legislation includes provisions that are generally consistent with established TIA positions. For example, I offer you the enclosed document, "*TIA Broadband Internet Access Connectivity Principles*," which sets forth principles that we believe should guide policy decisions regarding 'net neutrality' or 'connectivity' – generally construed as the ability for consumers to connect any device or access any content through their Internet connection, so long as it does not harm or degrade the network.

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. Our view is that the principles we offer provide an evenhanded and practical approach to this debate. Importantly, while we offer guidance on how policy leaders should monitor potential behavior, we also observe that no significant evidence of a problem exists at this time.

TIA and its highly regarded, innovative member companies have recently finalized and updated our position on these issues in order to offer more substantial input, particularly in regard to what network operators should be able to do in managing their networks. These principles balance the need to provide consumer access, while also allowing network operators to protect and invest in their networks, which they will not do if they are unable to envision realizing a return on that investment.

TIA's Broadband Internet Access Connectivity Principles are intended to help you understand our views as these issues continue to impact our members and the U.S. economy. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Seiffert, Executive Vice President, at 703-907-7722 / gseiffert@tiaonline.org, or Danielle Jafari, Director and Legal Counsel of Government Affairs, at 703-907-7734 / djafari@tiaonline.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Flanigan
President



The Telecommunications Industry Association represents the communications sector of

