



February 17, 2006

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senate
340 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Smith, DeMint, Ensign, McCain, Rockefeller, and Kerry:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) applauds you for proposing to Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye video competition principles to help guide the Committee's consideration of video franchising reform legislation. TIA strongly supports a market-driven, deregulatory approach to video franchise reform and your enumerated principles generally are consistent with the enclosed position statement TIA established last year. This issue has received increased attention as its importance gains recognition, and TIA supports the momentum towards its resolution.

As you know, TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology (ICT) industry, with 600 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used to provide, and used in conjunction with, video services. Regulatory barriers to entry into the video services market have a direct impact on investment in ICT products and services; legislation is necessary to remove these barriers.

By allowing competing video service providers to enter the market on a streamlined and equitable basis, consumers will experience an increase in choice and a corresponding decrease in prices. In addition, the broadband deployment that will result from reformation of the video franchising process will foster innovation in products and services, promote investment, increase competitiveness, and ultimately strengthen the U.S. economy.

We appreciate your continued leadership and look forward to working with you to help enhance competition in the video and broadband marketplaces. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (703) 907-7701.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Flanigan
President

cc:

Hon. Ted Stevens, Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
Hon. Daniel Inouye, Co-Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation

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