



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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March 10, 2006

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barton:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I would like to 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 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 or [gseiffert@tiaonline.org](mailto:gseiffert@tiaonline.org), or Danielle Jafari, Director and Legal Counsel of Government Affairs, at 703-907-7734 or [djafari@tiaonline.org](mailto:djafari@tiaonline.org).

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Flanigan  
President

cc:  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



The Telecommunications Industry Association represents the communications sector of

