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October 6, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Commerce, Science & Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science & Transportation
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jane Harman
U.S. House of Representatives
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rockefeller, Senator Hutchison and Representative Harman,

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I write to offer our support for your legislation to extend the funding for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant program through 2012. TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology industry, with over 500 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in the provision of products and services used in global communications.

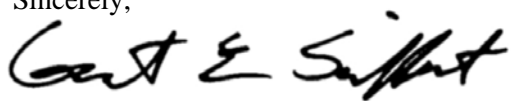
As introduced, S. 1694 and H.R. 3633 would allow funds under the PSIC grant program to be expended through the end of fiscal year 2012. This program, originally established by the "Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005" provides funding for state and local projects with the purpose of providing public safety personnel with interoperable communications equipment and the necessary training for system users. The passage of this legislation is essential as grantees need an extension of the program in order to deploy planned communications projects which will improve the operations and response of public safety personnel in the event of an emergency.

It is our hope that this legislation is swiftly considered and enacted and that Congress will then turn to the task of ensuring that the expenditure of the grants is as efficient as possible to ensure that the needs of public safety personnel can be met with the resources already appropriated for this purpose. While there continues to be significant challenges in the effort to create a fully interoperable nationwide public safety communications system, the PSIC program is a critical program and must operate effectively in order to maximize the impact of these resources.

TIA represents the global information and communications technology (ICT) industry through standards development, advocacy, tradeshow, business opportunities, market intelligence and world-wide environmental regulatory analysis. For over 80 years, TIA has enhanced the business environment for broadband, mobile wireless, information technology, networks, cable, satellite and unified communications. Members' products and services empower communications in every industry and market, including healthcare, education, security, public safety, transportation, government, the military, the environment and entertainment.

Again, on behalf of TIA and our members, thank you for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you to pass this essential legislation.

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