



May 13, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice  
Science & Related Agencies  
144 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice  
Science & Related Agencies  
123 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby,

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association, I am writing to respectfully request that the FY2011 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill include the funding requested by Department of Commerce for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for continued monitoring and administration of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants.

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) represents the global information and communications technology (ICT) industry through standards development, advocacy, business opportunities, market intelligence and world-wide environmental regulatory analysis. 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 and have played a key role in many BTOP grants.

Authorized and funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the BTOP program has provided grant support for broadband projects in underserved and unserved communities throughout the U.S. The NTIA has been working to award \$4.7 billion in grants for the purpose of enabling the deployment of broadband, increasing broadband access and consumer adoption and demand, and for the creation of broadband maps in each state and territory.

However, ARRA did not provide authorization or funding for NTIA's continued administration and oversight of open grants beyond FY2010. Thus, the Department's FY2011 budget proposal includes a request for \$23.7 million for additional NTIA staff for continued management of the BTOP program. TIA respectfully requests that the Subcommittee support this request in the FY2011 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill. Continued oversight of this grant program will help ensure that the grant program is successful and that these dollars are well spent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Seiffert". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Grant Seiffert  
President