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May 13, 2010

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science & Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science & Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf,

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 that reads "Grant Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Seiffert
President