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May 2, 2011

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to commend you for the introduction of the "Broadband Conduit Deployment Act of 2011," and to offer strong support for this much needed legislation.

This straight forward, commonsensical legislation requires the installation of broadband conduit infrastructure in any covered highway construction project so that future broadband deployment efforts will not require the digging up of newly constructed roadways. As representatives of the manufacturing sector, we appreciate your efforts to simplify the deployment and construction of new broadband networks.

According to some estimates, more than half of the costs of new broadband deployment are expenses that can be ascribed to the digging up and repaving of roadways. Further, it is estimated that the inclusion of broadband conduit in highway construction would add less than 1% to the cost of the overall project. Not only does this legislation go a long way towards facilitating the goal of universal access to broadband across the United States by substantially reducing the cost of deployment, but it also limits the negative impact on communities by reducing the amount of time that roads are under construction.

As you know, 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 global communications. 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.

Our industry has long appreciated your leadership to encourage broadband deployment over the years, and the introduction of this legislation continues that legacy. TIA looks forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Seiffert
President