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June 16, 2008

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
144 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby,

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to respectfully request that the FY09 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill include increased funding for the domestic science agencies and the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Science and Technology in particular.

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 in global communications. Research is the backbone of the communications industry, a building block for the development of advanced communications products and services.

Our industry strongly supported the innovation agenda and appreciates your leadership which allowed this Congress to enact many of these priorities as part of the America COMPETES Act, PL 110-69, and we encourage your subcommittee to include funding in this year's appropriations bill that will allow the programs authorized by that landmark legislation to have their full impact.

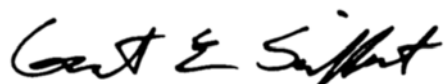
Basic research in the physical sciences and engineering represents only 10 percent of the federal research and development portfolio, but it has, arguably, the greatest economic impact as it touches every aspect of our nation's economy. As such, we encourage you to demonstrate a sustained commitment to these programs by funding these agencies at the level authorized by PL 110-69, which for FY09 is \$7.33 billion for NSF and \$882 million for NIST.

Additionally, we encourage you to include language in your Committee Report calling for the enactment of Sec. 7024 of PL 110-69, which calls for the creation of an advisory committee on high performance computing, with an additional emphasis on networking technology. Communications technology is vital to the global economy, serving as its central nervous system, and will be the foundation of 21st century global communications networks. Finally, we request that your Report incorporates the directive that is in Sec. 7024, that increases funding for high performance computing and networking, "in proportion to the increase in the total amount appropriated to the foundation for Research and Related activities."

Telecommunications, as an industry, represents about 7.4% of our Gross Domestic Product and plays a fundamental role that touches all other industries, impacts the productivity of our industries and our economy, and pivotally affects public safety, education, health care, and countless other functions in our daily lives. A continued emphasis on these critical programs by your Committee is essential to the continued competitiveness of our nation.

I thank you for your leadership in these areas. If we may be of any assistance to you on these matters, please feel free to contact me or Carolyn Lee, Director of Legislative and Government Affairs at (202) 346-3245.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Grant Seiffert
President