

December 22, 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Obey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As Congress begins developing important economic recovery legislation, the undersigned organizations urge you to support full funding for the Broadband Data Improvement Act. This legislation would jumpstart comprehensive broadband initiatives in many states, leading to rapid positive economic benefits as broadband coverage gaps are erased and broadband adoption rates rise.

Passed by unanimous consent in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, S. 1492 – the Broadband Data Improvement Act – is the culmination of almost two years of work by the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. Working in a bi-partisan manner, Congress achieved consensus on the beginning of a national broadband plan that includes the model of public-private partnerships leveraging their strengths to improve the quality-of-life for all Americans.

The attached letter was sent to the U.S. Congress in July advocating for the passage of broadband legislation before the close of the 110th Congress. As proponents of the passage of this important legislation, we also advocate for funding to implement it as soon as possible. Estimates for full funding of this important element of broadband improvement range from \$200 million to \$335 million.

Broadband availability and usage is critical infrastructure in a 21st century economy, and it is crucial that the Congress work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to fully fund the Broadband Data Improvement Act as part of a broadband component of any economic stimulus bill considered in the 111th Congress.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
AT&T
Alliance for Public Technology
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Library Association
Cablevision
Charter Communications
Comcast
Communications Workers of America
Connected Nation

Cox Communications
EDUCAUSE
FTTH Council, North America
Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance
Information Technology Association of America
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
NIC, Inc.
National Cable and Telecommunications Association
National Consumers League
National Farmers Union
The National Grange
National Rural Health Association
Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications
Companies
Qwest
Telecommunications Industry Association
Time Warner Cable
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Telecom Association
Verizon
Western Telecommunications Association
Windstream

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
The Honorable John A. Boehner
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Alan Mollohan
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Cliff Stearns