



April 13, 2009

Ms. Anna Gomez
Deputy Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications
and Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 4701
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Michael Copps
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. James R. Newby
Acting Administrator
Rural Utilities Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 5801-S, Stop 3201
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Gomez, Acting Chairman Copps, and Acting Administrator Newby:

On October 10, 2008, S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act became P.L. 110-385. The Broadband Data Improvement Act had passed both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives unanimously.

Sponsored by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, S. 1492 attracted 22 Senate cosponsors during its development, including: Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA); Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH); Sen. Maria Cantwell (WA); Sen. Thomas Carper (DE); Sen. Hillary Clinton (NY); Sen. Susan Collins (ME); Sen. Byron Dorgan (ND); Sen. Dick Durbin (IL); Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX); Sen. Tim Johnson (SD); Sen. John Kerry (MA); Sen. Amy Klobuchar (MN); Sen. Mary Landrieu (LA); Sen. Bill Nelson (FL); Senator (IL) and now President Barack Obama; Sen. Mark Pryor (AR); Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Rockefeller (WV); Sen. Charles Schumer (NY); Sen. Gordon Smith (OR); Sen. Olympia Snowe (ME); Sen. John Thune (SD); and Sen. Jim Webb (VA).

Related legislation in the U.S. House, H.R. 3919 – the Broadband Census of America Act, was introduced by Rep. Ed Markey (MA-7) and passed unanimously by the House in 2007. During its development H.R. 3919 attracted 15 co-sponsors, including: Rep. Tom Allen (ME-1); House Commerce Committee Ranking Member Joe Barton (TX-6); Rep. Lois Capps (CA-23); then-House Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (MI-15); Rep. Michael Doyle (PA-14); Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-14); Rep. Charles Gonzalez (TX-20); Rep. Bart Gordon (TN-6); Rep. Gene Green (TX-29); Rep. Baron Hill (IN-9); Rep. Hilda Solis (CA-32); Rep. Zack Space (OH-18); Rep. Bart Stupak (MI-1); Rep. Fred Upton (MI-6); and Rep. Heather Wilson (NM-1).

Both S. 1492 and H.R. 3919 went through regular legislative order, with hearings held soliciting input from stakeholders on the framework and contents of the bills. Subcommittee and full-committee markups were held to allow Members of Congress the opportunity to weigh input and incorporate any necessary changes. Elements of both the introduced version of S. 1492 and the House-passed version of H.R. 3919 were incorporated into the final version of this important piece of broadband policy.

In addition to bipartisan and widespread support on Capitol Hill, the Broadband Data Improvement Act attracted support from diverse group of organizations, non-profits, and companies. Attached to this letter are two letters sent to Congress in 2008 supporting passage and funding for the Broadband Data Improvement Act's provisions.

The first letter, sent to Congress on July 11, 2008, is signed by 31 organizations and urges Congress to pass a final version of the Broadband Data Improvement Act before the close of the 110th Congress.

The second letter was sent to Congress on December 22, 2008, after the Broadband Data Improvement Act became P.L. 110-385, and urges Congress to include funding for the Broadband Data Improvement Act. This letter, also with 31 signatories, specifically mentions the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, which is intended to fund comprehensive statewide broadband initiatives through competitive grants from NTIA.

NTIA was directed in P.L. 111-5 to use up to \$350 million to fund the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, in addition to creating and maintaining a national broadband inventory map. The clear intent of Congress, in authorizing the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program in Sec. 106 of P.L. 110-385 and then providing up to \$350 million for that program in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was to have this grant program work in concert with the other programs authorized and funded as the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Taken together, the Broadband Data Improvement Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contain a comprehensive broadband policy laid out by the U.S. Congress that will do much to improve broadband deployment and adoption in the United States. Implemented together, the NTIA, FCC, and RUS will fully realize Congress's intent.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip K. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip K. Brown
National Policy Director

Attachments: 2 – July 11, 2008 Letter to House and Senate Commerce Committees; December 22, 2008 Letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committees.



July 11, 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Stevens, Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for Congressional action to promote greater availability and adoption of broadband high-speed Internet services.

The leading bills pending before Congress (S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act and H.R. 3919, the Broadband Census of America Act of 2007) would improve information-gathering about current broadband deployment and assist in targeting resources to areas in need of such services. A recent FCC order requires more focused broadband data collection from broadband providers but does not address other important broadband mapping elements contained in the pending legislation.

We believe Congress should adopt legislation this year that provides federal government support for state initiatives using public-private partnerships to identify gaps in broadband coverage and to develop both the supply of and demand for broadband in those areas. The ability to accelerate deployment and adoption by bringing together government, broadband providers, business, labor, farm organizations, librarians, educators, and consumer groups in public-private partnerships is greater than the ability of these diverse players standing alone.

Adopting a national policy to stimulate subscription where it is already available, and deployment where it is not, could have dramatic and far-reaching economic impacts. For example, a Connected Nation study released February 2008 estimated the total annual economic impact of accelerating broadband across the nation to be more than \$134

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billion. In addition to the \$134 billion total benefit, the study found that increasing broadband adoption by another seven percent could result in:

- **\$92 billion** through an additional 2.4 million jobs per year created or retained;
- **\$662 million** saved per year in reduced healthcare costs;
- **\$6.4 billion** per year in mileage savings from unnecessary driving;
- **\$18 million** in carbon credits associated with 3.2 billion fewer pounds of CO2 emissions per year in the United States; and
- **\$35.2 billion** in value from 3.8 billion more hours saved per year from accessing broadband at home.

We cannot afford to let another year go by without adopting policies that will stimulate the economy in such ways, while expanding use of the networks that are already deployed and providing broadband in previously underserved areas. That is why we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to enact federal legislation this year.

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
The Children's Partnership
Comcast
Communications Workers of America
Connected Nation
Cox Communications
EDUCAUSE
Embarq
Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Internet Innovation Alliance
NIC, Inc.
National Cable and Telecommunications Association
National Farmers Union
The National Grange
National Rural Health Association

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Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications
Companies

Qwest

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 Edward J. Markey

The Honorable Cliff Stearns



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

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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