

March 16, 2009

Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

*Re: Rural Health Care Support Mechanism (WC Docket No. 02-60)*

*Rural Broadband Strategy Docket (GN Docket No. 09-29)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 13, 2009, representatives of the Telecommunications Industry Association (“TIA”) met with Chairman Michael Copps, Scott Deutchmann, and Paul Murray to discuss the above-mentioned proceedings and issues relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (“ARRA”). Present on behalf of TIA were the following individuals: Kevin Krufky, Alcatel-Lucent; Jason Friedrich, Motorola; Dean Brenner, QUALCOMM; Joanne Dalton, Tyco Electronics; Margie Dickman, Intel; Barbara Baffer, Ericsson; Steve Doiron, Hughes Networks; Mary Brown, Cisco; Jason Friedrich, Motorola; Derek Khlopin, Nokia; Melanie Carter-Maguire, Nortel; Doug Cooper, OneChip Photonics; Michael O’Malley, Tellabs; Paul Schomburg, Panasonic; Evan Morris, Harris Corp.; Gary Bolton, ADTRAN; Louise Tucker, Telcordia; Tim Regan, Corning; Mark Ogden, ADTRAN; Jake MacLeod, Bechtel; Danielle Coffey, TIA; Patrick Sullivan, TIA; Rebecca Schwartz, TIA; and Bryan Tramont, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP.

At the meeting, TIA made the following points:

- The FCC’s broadband policy statement is working. During consultations relating to implementation of ARRA, TIA urges the Commission to advise NTIA that there is no need to place additional limitations on network operators. Rather, providers should be encouraged to experiment with new and innovative offerings and should be afforded flexibility in designing their business models. Expanding the Policy Statement would break new ground on vital issues many parties should debate under reasonable time constraints and detract from the main goal of ARRA, which is creating jobs quickly to aid the ailing American economy.
- TIA supports a narrow approach to interconnection that encourages facilities-based deployment of broadband networks. A cautious approach to the regulation of next-generation offerings has stimulated broadband deployment and economic growth

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- The Commission's national broadband strategy should focus on expanding broadband availability and adoption in rural areas, not only for residential end-users but also for schools, hospitals, community anchor institutions, and so forth. The goal of providing effective, efficient, and affordable broadband to all can be achieved through a flexible and minimally regulatory approach. As TIA has advocated elsewhere, though, there is also a role for the universal service program, which should transition away from support for narrowband analog networks toward digital broadband networks.
- TIA supports the Commission's tiered analysis of broadband speeds. This tiered approach should inform any broadband mapping effort, and the Commission should urge NTIA to employ such tiers if asked to provide input on the mapping project.
- The Rural Health Care Pilot Program must be extended and made permanent. Without action, the RHCPP will expire in just over a year, and even today it leaves substantial sums unused. By taking the steps TIA has requested, the Commission can bolster the Administration's goals of stimulating the economy, improving health care, furthering broadband deployment, and even reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bryan N. Tramont

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Bryan N. Tramont

cc (via electronic mail):

Scott Deutchmann  
Paul Murray