



INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

July 18, 2007

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With the full Senate Commerce Committee prepared to mark-up S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act, The Independent Telephone and Telecommunication Alliance (ITTA) would like to go on record in supporting this legislation. We are especially pleased that revised version marked as a Staff Working Draft, dated July 17, 2007, includes FOIA protection for those companies providing broadband data to the Federal Communications Commission. This is an issue that we brought to the attention of your committee staff and we are pleased that the latest version of your legislation addresses this issue.

As S. 1492 moves forward through your committee and hopefully the full Senate, we will work with you and your staff in supporting final passage of this important legislation. The deployment of broadband throughout the United States is of critical importance to the economic vitality of the entire nation. We believe that our member companies are at the forefront of deploying broadband to those areas where they provide telecommunication service and since those areas are primarily in rural parts of our country, we are very proud of our record of broadband deployment. Obviously, more can be done and that is why we are supporting your legislation.

ITTA looks forward to working with you and your staff on a host of issues affecting the telecommunications industry. One area of pressing concern is the reform of the Universal Service Fund. We are prepared to do our part in working with you and your committee as you begin to address this issue as well.

Sincerely,

Paul Raak
Director of Legislative Affairs
Independent Telephone and Telecommunication Alliance