



January 30, 2008

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley,

The members of the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA) strongly support the 50 percent bonus depreciation for capital investment section of H.R. 5140 in the House stimulus package. It is our hope that under your leadership, the Senate will adopt the 50 percent bonus depreciation provision as well.

The member companies of ITTA are among the leaders in broadband deployment. Our members serve more than 26 million Americans in 45 states, many of whom live in some of the most rural and insular parts of our country. As you know, broadband deployment is a key component to our economy and the bonus depreciation will allow our member carriers to accelerate broadband investment and deliver greater economic value to America's suburban and rural communities.

By allowing carriers to accelerate the depreciation value up to 50 percent on telecommunications equipment, carriers will be able to more quickly deploy broadband, and consumers will in turn benefit from more choices. In fact, in some states in which our carriers serve, the bonus depreciation may actually lower the property tax burden.

Once again, on behalf of our members we thank you for your prompt action on the Economic Stimulus Package and we remain hopeful that the bonus depreciation provision on capital investment will make it to the President's desk.

Sincerely,

Curt Stamp  
President

Independent Telephone and Telecommunication Alliance

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee