



February 19, 2009

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Congratulations on signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law. We commend you and your Administration for recognizing the importance of broadband and dedicating valuable resources to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to see that all Americans will have access to broadband.

The telecom providers represented by our associations are ready to work with the Administration and Congress to see that broadband projects commence immediately. The roles of the RUS and the NTIA will be especially critical in approving grant applications and setting policy. While we recognize staff is starting to lay the ground work, ultimately these two agencies need leadership at the top to ensure success and accountability for the programs. For these reasons, we ask that RUS and NTIA administrators be nominated immediately and swiftly confirmed by the Senate so there is no delay in investing in our broadband infrastructure and meeting the goals of the ARRA.

Once again, thank you for your leadership during these challenging economic times. We look forward to working with you as we bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century broadband to America.

Sincerely,

Curt Stamp  
President,  
Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance

John Rose  
President,  
OPASTCO

Kelly Worthington  
Executive Vice President,  
Western Telecommunications Alliance

cc. The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee

