



January 21, 2009

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative Boehner:

As Congress begins its review and deliberation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and its proposed \$825 billion economic stimulus plan, NATOA would like to offer its appreciation and support for the broadband provisions as contained in Title III of the Act. NATOA is committed to assisting Congress in the successful deployment of broadband infrastructure and services throughout this nation, and NATOA stands willing to provide its assistance and support as a resource in this regard.

As NATOA has shared with members of Congress, broadband infrastructure deployment has characteristics that make it uniquely qualified both as part of a short-term economic boost as well as a substantial long-term solution to improving the state of our nation's economy. NATOA is pleased that, in drafting the economic recovery package, Congress has recognized broadband's important role in helping to turn the economy around, and has ensured that local governments will have a substantial part to play in bringing broadband's transformative power to communities nationwide.

The proposed \$6 billion outlined in Title III of the Act is a good first step in helping the United States to retain its position of leadership in the emerging global economy. NATOA looks forward to helping Congress and the Obama Administration restore the United States to its place as a world leader in broadband capacity, speed, and affordability, to the benefit of every citizen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Beaty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Libby Beaty
Executive Director