



October 16, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner & Leaders Reid, Pelosi, and McConnell:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), writes to strongly urge you to take immediate steps to enable high-tech manufacturers to continue marketing and selling new products. The approval process for new devices has been suspended due to the FCC's shutdown of its website, thus preventing any new products from coming to market.

Radio-emitting devices such as smartphones and tablets must be approved by the FCC before they can be legally marketed or sold. However, the FCC allows accredited private, third-party testing laboratories to certify equipment and then simply notify the agency of approval, followed by a 30-day period during which the FCC can review such grants of approval. This system has worked effectively for two decades to prevent agency backlogs from causing bottlenecks in the availability of new products to consumers, organizations, the public safety community, and other end users.

Unfortunately, at the time of shutdown the FCC announced that third party testing laboratories will be unable to submit their device approval notifications to the FCC – simply because *the agency has shut down its website*. As a result, from the day the government shutdown began until the shutdown ends, no new communications devices – from cellular phones and tablets to public safety radios – can be legally marketed or sold in the United States, despite having been fully certified to FCC standards.

This bottleneck can be addressed simply by restoring the relevant portion of the FCC's website, and we request that you urge the agency to do so immediately. To preserve the FCC's right to review third party laboratory approvals, TIA would support having the FCC's 30-day review period begin on the date that full agency operations resume.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to address this important issue. For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at dcoffey@tiaonline.org.

Sincerely,

Grant E. Seiffert
President

Cc:

Reps. Fred Upton and Henry Waxman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Reps. Greg Walden and Anna Eshoo, House Communications Subcommittee
Sens. John Rockefeller and John Thune, Senate Commerce Committee
Sens. Mark Pryor and Roger Wicker, Senate Communications Subcommittee
FCC Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn
FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai
FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel