The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) applauds you for holding a joint
subcommittee hearing today to explore public safety technology research and development.

TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology industry,
with over 500 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in
global communications. TIA appreciates the recent efforts in Congress to advance information
& communications technology (ICT) research and development, including the establishment of a
public safety wireless communications R&D program at NIST (Pub. L. No. 112-96 § 6303) and
the recent passage of the Advancing America’s Networking and Information Technology
Research and Development Act (H.R. 3834) by the House of Representatives. ICT research has
historically been underfunded at the federal level when compared to other industries, so TIA
appreciates your leadership on this issue and stresses the necessity of targeted ICT research as a
national priority.

“Homeland security” is a superset of several core constituencies with slightly different missions
that often have common and interconnected technology and data requirements. Homeland
security technologies can help protect public networks and other public infrastructure from both
natural disasters and malicious attacks. A large amount of economic activity today depends on
the continued availability of public broadband networks and infrastructure. Significant outages
can significantly slow down national economic activity and can have other disastrous
consequences.

In a recent white paper (enclosed), TIA identified several technical areas – **interoperability**,
**security, survivability** and **encryption** – where additional research is needed to meet the needs
of first responders. In the case of malicious attacks, the nature of the threat is constantly
evolving as new worms and viruses are being invented. Continuing research and development is
needed to prevent attacks before there is significant resulting damage.
Moreover, federally funded research specifically focused on **interoperable mobility** is necessary to support the emerging needs of the emergency services market. Interoperable mobility enables public safety and law enforcement officials to use the various public safety and cellular mobile networks while avoiding the necessity of carrying multiple mobile devices. It also promotes coordinated communications between various public service agencies and allows higher priority use of scarce spectrum resources for emergency use. Bringing commercial technologies and emergency services technologies closer together will also result in lower costs and more advanced features for critical emergency services.

We urge you to ensure that federal research programs address these important areas, along with other areas identified in the enclosed white paper. Once again, we applaud you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Grant E. Seiffert
President