



January 15, 2014

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, and Chairman Camp:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), wishes to thank you for introducing the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014. TIA strongly supports the re-enactment of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) this year.

Global investment is increasing in both wireless and fixed broadband networks. This global trend includes the launch of long term evolution (LTE) 4G wireless networks, continued growth in smartphone penetration, and fiber deployments to enhance fixed broadband infrastructure. Each of these developments stems from a single underlying driver – the need for greater capacity to accommodate growing global data transmission demands. Driven by this need, the global telecommunications market was valued at \$4.9 trillion in 2012 – with about 76 percent of the total marketplace located outside of the United States.

As a result, re-enactment of TPA is essential both to increasing the nation's level of exports overall and to the growth of the U.S. ICT industry in particular. Moreover, experience shows that the effects of prior trade agreements on telecommunications exports are both demonstrable and dramatic. According to TIA's *2013 Market Review and Forecast*, although countries having trade agreements with the United States currently represent only 10 percent of the overseas economy, they account for 35.7 percent of U.S. exports in telecommunications equipment.

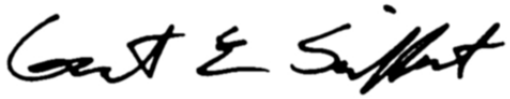
We also appreciate that your legislation includes updated 21<sup>st</sup> Century negotiating objectives related to digital trade and cross-border data flows. The United States must ensure that other countries live up to their obligations under the World Trade Organization or other agreements, and governments worldwide must refrain from implementing localization barriers to trade, including requirements for the local storage or processing of data.

Updated TPA legislation will further strengthen the partnership between Congress and the Administration through enhanced Congressional oversight, transparency, and consultations,

which will ultimately result in stronger trade agreements for the benefit of the U.S. economy and job creation. With active negotiations to conclude the Trans-Pacific Partnership as well as to advance the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and Trade in Services Agreement, TPA renewal will send a strong signal to other negotiating parties on the priority the United States places on high-standard trade agreements that enhance trade liberalization and market access for U.S. industry.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that TPA is enacted in 2014. For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at [dcoffey@tiaonline.org](mailto:dcoffey@tiaonline.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant E. Seiffert  
President