



June 29, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
United States House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for the global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology, urges you to reconsider the **proposed twenty-five percent cut to the budget of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”)**. NTIA serves a vital role in coordinating U.S. telecommunications policy in spectrum management, public safety, and other areas of national importance. Importantly, its efforts have also yielded direct benefits many times over for the American taxpayer.

As the Appropriations Committee considers NTIA’s budget, it should avoid impacting the following functions:

- **Federal Spectrum Management.** NTIA’s Office of Spectrum Management (OSM) coordinates spectrum use by the federal government, along with international coordination. Its role includes ensuring that key federal agencies can carry out their missions effectively, including important national security functions. Moreover, OSM’s previous efforts have led directly to federal spectrum auctions, such as the AWS-3 auction of federal spectrum in 2015, that raised nearly \$45 billion. We urge Congress to safeguard these efforts by ensuring adequate funds for an agency that has yielded direct returns to the Treasury that are hundreds of times larger than its own budget.
- **Public Safety.** NTIA’s Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) played a pivotal role in the development of FirstNet, the forthcoming interoperable national public safety broadband network. OPSC’s role is essential not just for FirstNet itself, but for assisting state and local governments with their coordination and planning, or (alternatively) constructing their own public safety radio access networks.
- **Wireless Research and Engineering.** The Institute for Telecommunications Sciences (ITS) conducts cutting-edge pre-market research toward more efficient uses of spectrum. Its work on test and demonstration networks is also important as the U.S. information & communications technology industry seeks to deploy new technologies such as 5G networks and keep pace with investments being made by European and Asian governments.
- **Security and Privacy.** NTIA is coordinating implementation of the President’s executive order on cybersecurity, and also coordinates critical multi-stakeholder processes on Internet of Things security and drone privacy issues.

In short, NTIA’s efforts have enabled the communications services that consumers, businesses, state and local governments, public safety professionals, and the federal government all depend upon, while also yielding huge returns for taxpayers. Congress should strengthen these efforts, and TIA thanks you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Cinnamon Rogers
Senior Vice President
Telecommunications Industry Association

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