



WALTER B. MCCORMICK, JR.
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Walden:

The United States Telecom Association represents the nation's leading broadband service providers – companies that offer a wide range of voice, data, and video services on both a fixed and mobile basis. Our member companies serve markets that are both urban and rural, and range in size from some of the country's largest publicly traded corporations to small family-owned companies and rural cooperatives. Our diverse membership is united in its support for the multi-stakeholder cooperative model to Internet governance that exists today.

Therefore, on behalf of USTelecom, I want to express our support for your legislation to affirm our nation's policy with respect to Internet governance. That policy, to promote a global Internet free from government control and to preserve and advance the multi-stakeholder governance model, has allowed the Internet to thrive globally as an engine for economic growth and democratic freedom.

Several of USTelecom's member companies participated in last year's World Conference on International Telecommunications, serving as part of the stakeholder team working against harmful changes to the International Telecommunications Union regulations. Like you, we were disappointed by the conference's outcome and supported U.S. Ambassador Terry Kramer's refusal to sign the treaty. We remain committed to the fight against government or multi-government institutions replacing the successful multi-stakeholder process in place today. The legislation that you intend to bring before the committee is an important statement of America's national resolve on this issue.

Sincerely,


Walter B. McCormick, Jr.

cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Anna Eshoo