



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), applauds your continued leadership in promoting legislation, the **Broadband Conduit Deployment Act of 2017**, that would provide our nation with huge long-term infrastructure cost savings while accelerating the deployment of high-speed broadband service.

TIA strongly supports this legislation, which provides a common-sense proposal for evaluating the need to install broadband conduits when highways are built, reducing the need to dig up and repair roads. A large portion of key “middle-mile” telecommunications networks – including backhaul networks that connect wireless cell towers – run along highways. The Federal Highway Administration has estimated that *90 percent* of the cost of deploying fiber-optic cable connectivity along roadways is associated with digging up and repairing the road – a cost which this proposal would reduce.

Additional benefits to installing conduits during road construction projects will be the reduction in deployment time of next generation mobility communication technologies, cost savings for the new national public safety broadband network, and the facilitation of other Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

For more information, please contact Dileep Srihari at 703-907-7715 or by email at dsrihari@tiaonline.org. TIA thanks you again, and we look forward to working with you on these important issues.

Best regards,

Cinnamon Rogers
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)