



Via Fax

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
& Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) applauds the introduction of S.1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act, as a significant and necessary first step in bringing high-speed Internet access to every American.

In order for our country to move forward to ensure that a 21st century Internet is available for all, we need key information and better data to help us get there. S.1492 will greatly improve the quality of that information.

The Broadband Data Improvement Act would require the FCC to reevaluate its current definition of broadband and to create a new metric known as "second generation broadband;" require providers to report more detailed information about broadband availability and subscription; instruct the Census Bureau to query households regarding computer use and broadband subscription; and require the GAO and the Small Business Administration to study methods to assess broadband cost, speed, and comparability with other nations.

CWA enthusiastically supports the provision that establishes a \$40 million five-year state broadband data and development grant program. The grants program would support mapping of broadband deployment; establish local technology planning teams to work collaboratively with service providers to encourage deployment; and establish programs to improve computer ownership and Internet access. The broadband data would be posted on the Department of Commerce website.

CWA looks forward to working with you in support of S.1492. Speed Matters: High-Speed Internet for All.

Sincerely,



Larry Cohen
President