



July 25, 2007

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gordon Smith
United States Senate
404 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lautenberg and Smith:

On behalf of the Fiber-to-the-Home (“FTTH”) Council, I am writing to express our support for your legislation, S. 1583, the Community Broadband Act of 2007. By helping to ensure that municipalities have the ability to deploy FTTH and other networks, your legislation will accelerate access to next generation broadband services by all Americans.

The FTTH Council is a non-profit organization established in 2001. Its mission is to educate, promote, and accelerate FTTH and the resulting quality of life enhancements. The Council’s members represent all areas of broadband industries, including telecommunications, computing, networking, system integration, engineering, content-provider companies, as well as traditional telecommunications service providers, utilities, and municipalities. As of today, the Council has more than 130 companies as members.

The Council has taken note that the world leaders in the market penetration of very high bandwidth networks – Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and the Scandinavian countries – are also those that regard the availability of these networks as a matter of strategic national importance and therefore have policy foundations aimed at clearing the way for their widest possible deployment. Accordingly, we actively support the adoption of a “100 Megabit Nation” policy for the U.S., as put forth recently by Senator Rockefeller in S. Res. 191, which calls for wide access to transmission speeds of 100 megabits per second within the next few years.

The technology and the industrial capability to meet this 100 megabit goal already exist. Since 2001, there has been significant progress in the deployment of FTTH networks and technology in the United States, with private sector entities well on the way to spending tens of billions of dollars to deploy these networks over the next several years. Yet, even then, most households in the nation will not have access to FTTH and

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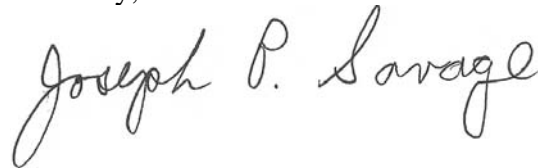
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other deep-fiber networks. The FTTH Council believes that a critical part of the 100 megabit strategy is to encourage municipalities to help extend high-bandwidth coverage by deploying their own next-generation broadband networks. Your legislation achieves that aim.

Congress should preempt restrictions on municipal deployment of next-generation networks. It is our experience that municipalities generally take on the burden of building a broadband network only when they feel their citizens have failed to receive state-of-the-art services at reasonable rates from the private sector. In a very real sense, entry by municipalities fills a major gap in the development of these networks, and thus helps to ensure their citizens have access to critical services. Therefore, when a municipality makes the decision to build a next-generation network, the state or federal government should not stand in its way.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we will endeavor to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph P. Savage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Joe Savage
President, FTTH Council
(503) 635-3114