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February 19, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

I am writing to express NCTA's strong support for S. 428, the "IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act" and to urge full Senate passage of this important public safety initiative. In particular, I applaud the leadership of Chairman Dan Inouye, Vice-Chairman Ted Stevens, Senator Bill Nelson, and Senator Olympia Snowe, for their commitment to ensuring that all consumers across the country have access to Enhanced 911 (E-911) service.

The cable industry is offering true facilities based voice competition to incumbent local telephone companies. Cable's VoIP digital phone service is available to over 100 million homes and more than 13.7 million households currently subscribe. As a result, consumers and small businesses will, according to a recent study by Microeconomic Consulting & Research Associates Inc. (MiCRA), save a total of \$101.5 billion on their phone bills over the next five years.

With more consumers than ever buying their telephone service from cable, and other VoIP providers, passage of S. 428 is critical to ensure that VoIP providers have access to the components necessary to provide 911 and E-911 services on the same terms and conditions and with the same protections afforded to all providers of voice service. When consumers dial 911 for emergency service, they should do so with confidence that their calls for help will be answered without regard to who provides their phone service or what technology they employ.

We encourage the Senate to pass S. 428 to ensure that subscribers of competitive phone service have full and unencumbered access to emergency services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KES', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kyle E. McSllarrow

cc: Members, United States Senate