Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2001

TAUZIN-DINGELL BILL WILL GIVE BOOST TO HIGH TECH SECTOR: DEPLOY BROADBAND INTERNET NOW!

Dear Colleague:

Did you know that between 1996 and 1999, the Information Technology sector contributed more than two-thirds toward America's total productivity growth?

But today the nation is experiencing an economic downturn, and signs show it is getting worse. The growth of the high tech sector, largely due to the Internet, was the major driver of the U.S. economy for the last ten years. Unfortunately, that engine is now slowing to a crawl.

Experts like Intel Chairman Andy Grove and Cisco CEO John Chambers believe that rapid deployment of broadband Internet service to consumers and businesses will jump-start the technology sector and the economy as a whole.

The Tauzin-Dingell bill is the best way to get this effort off the ground. H.R. 1542 is now ready for the full House to consider. We urge you to support it. The Tauzin-Dingell bill:

- Eliminates artificial geographic boundaries that prohibit Internet traffic from being transported by telephone companies. That will free up nearly 275,000 miles of under-utilized fiber currently in the ground that can be used to bolster high speed connections.
- Requires the Bell companies, within five years, to build out their networks to make 100% of their serving centers capable of offering high speed Internet service.
- Provides consumers with more choices for broadband Internet service. Currently cable companies control 70% of the broadband market. Telephone companies have a 20% share.
- Leaves Telecom Act requirements fully intact that obligate Bell companies to share their networks with companies who provide competitive local telephone service.

Sincerely,