



OFFICE OF
THE COMMISSIONER

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 1, 2008

Senator Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
SD-508 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

Thank you for your leadership regarding the deployment of broadband through the "Broadband Data Improvement Act" and especially for including language aimed at protecting the online safety of America's children.

As you know, since arriving at the Commission, I have been a strong advocate for child online safety. What was once described as a "virtual" world is actually a very real, 24-7 world for our children. We must protect them in the online world just as we would in the offline one. I have not only taken this message across America, but also to our international colleagues as well. I am pleased to be speaking at the International Telecommunications Union and will certainly share with them this important piece of legislation which could become a model for other nations both regarding broadband mapping as well as child online protection. I applaud you and Senator Stevens for creative and comprehensive solutions from utilizing the E-rate program rules to educate children about appropriate online behavior, to a nationwide public awareness program. I especially applaud involving the private sector to review and share successful industry-based solutions and tools.

With the proliferation of internet crimes which now affect our children's health, safety and welfare—especially those such as child predation and cyberbullying—it is critical that every segment of society contributes to assisting in this noble endeavor. Our children are our nation's most valuable natural resource and we should treat them as such.

Again, thank you for this important legislation toward achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deborah Taylor Tate".

CC: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson