



1200 G Street NW Suite 500 Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-628-6380 Fax: 202-393-5453 Web: www.part68.org

April 20, 2005

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA) would like to extend its congratulations on your recent appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. The ACTA would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the council, explain its role in the implementation of Part 68 terminal equipment standards and describe the ACTA's accomplishments in this field.

The ACTA is a balanced, open body co-sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS") and the Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA"). The ACTA was established pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's ("Commission") *Report and Order* in the 2000 Biennial Review of Part 68 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, CC Docket No. 99-216, released December 21, 2000 ("*Order*"). The *Order* directed the industry to assume certain roles previously performed by the Commission under Part 68 of its rules.

The mission of the ACTA is to adopt technical criteria for terminal equipment to prevent network harm. The ACTA accomplishes its mission by publishing technical criteria developed by the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") accredited standards development organizations and by establishing and maintaining database(s) of equipment approved as compliant with the technical criteria. The ACTA makes no substantive decisions regarding the content of such technical criteria.

It is with the support of ATIS and TIA that the ACTA has developed over the past years to effectively and efficiently assume necessary duties and responsibilities. The ACTA recently notified the FCC of its unanimous decision to retain ATIS and TIA as its sponsors for the next four years, pursuant to 47 CFR §68.602 (a). The ACTA also was pleased to inform the FCC that ATIS and TIA have agreed to continue their support of and involvement in ACTA, with ATIS serving as the ACTA Secretariat.

Perhaps the most positive effect of the ACTA on the telecommunications industry is efficiency. For example, the ACTA launched its on-line filing system, the ACTA On-line Filing (AOF), in

November 2002. The AOF system allows responsible parties and Telecommunication Certification Bodies to electronically file Telephone Terminal Equipment, thereby reducing the time necessary to enter information in the database and increasing the efficiency of the process. With the timely publishing of new technical criteria and the AOF system, the ACTA makes it possible for terminal equipment manufacturers, carriers, and testing laboratories to stay abreast of the market, which allows for the quick dissemination of new products and services and encourages the industry to reach niche segments and better satisfy consumer demand.

The ACTA and its members participate in industry forums related to terminal equipment and monitor standards relevant to the ACTA's purpose, such as the TIA TR41.9 Committee and ATIS Network Interface, Power, and Protection Committee (formerly T1E1). The ACTA has also conducted a bi-annual educational conference, with FCC support, to inform the industry about the latest trends and developments in terminal attachment regulations and requirements. The effects of the ACTA's efficient processes and its work to improve services to the telecommunications industry have been positive for the industry and the FCC.

The ACTA looks forward to the continued support and direction of the FCC on Part 68 to ensure that the industry remains compliant with federal regulations. If you have any questions, or if I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Salinas
ACTA Chair

cc: Jeffrey Carlisle, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC
Cathy Zima, Acting Deputy Chief, Industry Analysis and Technology Division, FCC
Tim Jeffries, Vice President of Technology Development ATIS
Dan Bart, Senior Vice President of Standards and Special Projects, TIA
Thomas Goode, Attorney, ATIS
Martha Ciske, ACTA Secretariat, ATIS
ACTA Council Members