



**President**  
ROGER L. HERMSEN

**President Elect**  
DOUGLAS J. WENZLAFF

**Executive Director**  
WILLIAM ESBECK

August 1, 2006

Mary P. Burke  
Secretary – Department of Commerce  
201 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Burke:

On behalf of the members of the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA), I write to you today regarding Wisconsin Act 479 – Broadband Deployment Act – and the Department of Commerce (“Department”) efforts to develop and implement the corresponding certification and tax allocation program.

As you know, the Act requires the Department to implement a program to make its certifications not later than December 31, 2006. Given the subject matter, many of our members are very much looking forward to utilizing the program, where possible, and are interested in participating in its development. We believe WSTA and our member companies can provide the Department with the resources and knowledge necessary to develop and implement a program that will provide the citizens of Wisconsin with the maximum benefit possible. Dialogue with Department staff and other interested parties would be welcomed.

Given the complexity of the tax implications and technologies involved, we also have numerous questions, which we believe could be better addressed working together in advance with the Department. We simply want to formalize our request for an open dialogue with you and other Department officials who will implement the new law.

I look forward to your positive response. Please contact me directly at (608) 256-8866 ext 14 with further questions.

Sincerely,

William C. Esbeck  
Executive Director

CC: Deputy Secretary David Storey, Aaron Olver and Todd Kearney