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Computer & Communications Industry Association

January 30, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bell
Chair, Trade Policy Staff
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Japan's Expression of Interest in the Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

Dear Mr. Bell:

I write to you today on behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), an international, nonprofit association of computer and communications firms, representing a broad cross section of the technology industry. CCIA has long been a supporter of free trade and is dedicated to preserving full, fair and open competition throughout our industry. Our members employ nearly half a million workers and generate approximately a quarter of a trillion dollars in annual revenue.

CCIA supports Japan's unconditional participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. Being our fourth-largest trading partner and the third-largest economy in the world, Japan would significantly enhance the TPP's scope as a high-standard twenty-first century trade agreement through its participation. As one of the United States' closest strategic partners in the Asia-Pacific, Japan's inclusion also makes sense in a geopolitical context.

As demonstrated by a recent McKinsey Global Institute study, the expansion of the Internet and technology not only creates growth in the Internet sector, but also contributes strongly to growth in all sectors—and particularly helps small business exports.¹ Given our hope that the TPP will include provisions that provide for unhindered cross border data flows and the free flow of information, it would be beneficial for a large and advanced market such as Japan to be included under the TPP framework. CCIA believes encouraging a vibrant Internet economy, particularly with our biggest trading partners, should be the foremost goal of this trade agreement. In crafting new rules of the road to adapt the rules-based trading system to a new online reality, negotiations with a significant Internet economy such as Japan are a logical pursuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E J Black'.

Edward J. Black
President & CEO
Computer & Communications Industry Association

¹ See Matthieu Pélissié du Rausas *et al.*, McKinsey Global Institute, "Internet Matters: The Net's Sweeping Impact on Growth, Jobs and Prosperity," (May 2011). Available at http://www.mckinsey.com/Insights/MGI/Research/Technology_and_Innovation/Internet_matters