



Science Applications International Corporation
An Employee-Owned Company

October 21, 2003

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
SR-241
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

A few weeks ago the president of the Northern Virginia Technology Council's education foundation recommended that I receive a briefing on an important education technology initiative currently pending before Congress. Having had an opportunity to speak with the project leaders and review materials, I am writing to express my support and to strongly urge your co-sponsorship of the Digital Opportunity Investment Trust legislation, which will be introduced later this month by Senators Dodd, Durbin and others.

I am very impressed with the idea of creating a trust that would be a center for national leadership and coordination in harnessing the power of technology for learning. Such an entity would be a natural partner for those of us in the technology industry where the advanced research and information technology we develop for specific and often-classified market sectors could be applied for an even broader public benefit. Strong federal leadership in this area will also play a critical role in improving national and homeland security – goals which we are working toward daily. And, with thousands of employees we realize the necessity of constantly improving education and training if our workforce is to be competitive in a global economy and our national economy is to remain strong.

My understanding is that the Digital Opportunity Investment Trust (DO IT) is to be a self-sustaining fund financed by a portion of the proceeds from auctioning and licensing of the electromagnetic spectrum. This seems to be a very sound model of utilizing a public asset to attain a critical public imperative. A similar idea created the Land Grant Colleges Act of 1862 that used the public asset of land to allow generations of Americans access to higher education. From my vantage point the improved use and coordination of technology for life-long learning would be equally revolutionary.

Technology Applications Sector
1710 SAIC Drive, M/S T1-12-5, McLean, Virginia 22102 (703) 876-5900 • Fax: (703) 827-9151



As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, you are in a unique position to wield leadership on this issue. I hope that you will do so, and support the creation of this Trust, at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael A. Daniels
Sector Vice President, SAIC