

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Help America Maintain its Competitive Advantage in the 21st Century

Dear Colleague:

"We have a great deal of work to do, but the opportunity to make learning more productive and more engaging for all people is simply too important for us to ignore. In a world economy that demands and rewards the best-educated citizenry, the United States needs to keep pace."

October 2003 Report to Congress, on Creating the Digital Opportunity Investment Trust by the Digital Promise Project and the Federation of American Scientists, as authorized in P.L. 108-7.

We ask that you join us in cosponsoring S 1023, the **Digital Opportunity Investment Trust (DOIT)**. It is an innovative proposal to create a competitive, grant-making entity, much like the NSF for science or the NIH for health and medicine, to fund essential research and development of advanced technologies to transform our systems of teaching, learning and training. Advanced technologies have transformed our work lives in innumerable ways, and the Internet, in little more than a decade, has become a central tool in commerce and communication. While America is still a leader in the world of education, especially math and science, we cannot afford to fall behind the rest of the world at all. Without federal leadership and resources, our institutions of education, culture and training will decline and our country will lose its competitive edge

DOIT will be a competitive fund for America's most innovative thinkers and researchers. The Trust will be financed by the **interest only** on a portion of the proceeds from the publicly owned telecommunications spectrum, beginning in 2008. The base of the Trust will remain an asset in the Treasury.

DO IT is built on the sound precedents of the Northwest Ordinance (1787) that created the world's first system of public elementary education; the Morrill Act (1862) that created the our Land Grant Colleges and gave access to higher education for all; and the GI Bill (1944) that helped to create America's prosperity after WWII. Many of us have personally benefited from the wisdom and leadership behind these laws. By establishing DO IT now, Congress would again make a bold investment in education for the new century to prepare future generations for fierce global economic competition and a world connected by information technology. Please join us in support of this historic legislation. For more information please contact Sheila Duffy in Senator Dodd's office (4-0352) or Kristin Smith in Senator Snowe's office (4-5344).

Sincerely,



Senator Dodd



Senator Snowe



Senator Durbin



Senator Burns