

August 26, 2020

H.E. Sergio Massa
President of the National House of Representatives
Av. Rivadavia 1864, 1° Piso, Of. Presidencia
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear President Massa:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations—representing a diverse array of companies in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector as well as other industries—we wish to commend Argentina's Congress for its tireless efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 health crisis while maintaining critical functions of the economy.

It is in the spirit of cooperation that we write today regarding draft decree 690/20, which would declare ICT services to be essential public services, thereby changing the regulatory framework for internet, television, and mobile phone services in Argentina. We share the important goal of universal access; however, the essential services designation will create limitations that impede competition and innovation needed for a dynamic and growing ICT sector. As the decree is written, we are concerned Argentina could be advancing a law that would be out of step with international standards, subject to challenge under global trade rules, and jeopardize new investments in the ICT sector at a time when they are most needed.

We encourage the Congress to postpone a vote on this measure to allow the government and industry to continue a dialogue in order to achieve a workable solution. The private sector is committed to continuing to work constructively towards a solution that supports jobs, investment, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

With this in mind, we stand ready to work with the President's Office, the Congress and other agencies within the Government of Argentina to achieve these objectives. We thank you for considering our views, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
U.S.-Argentina Business Council (USABC)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

