

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you holding this hearing today and I thank our panel of witnesses for testifying on this important issue.

Access to broadband is essential. It is a primary driver of economic development and it empowers and connects communities – especially rural communities like I represent in Ohio. Americans are increasingly connected to networked and wireless devices forcing broadband networks to grow in both scale and scope to keep pace with consumer demands. That is why we need to seek opportunities to maximize buildout of broadband facilities, such as utilizing federal lands and buildings as access points for broadband deployment of wireless antennas.

Our nation's free-market, private investment approach to broadband expansion has been very successful; therefore, I hope today

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we can identify policies that further encourage and advance investment
in broadband infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I yield back.