



Competitive Carriers Association  
Rural • Regional • Nationwide®

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Communications & Technology  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Communications & Technology  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn and Ranking Member Doyle:

Competitive Carriers Association<sup>1</sup> (“CCA”) respectfully submits this letter for the record regarding today’s hearing on “Fueling the 21st Century Wireless Economy” before the House Energy & Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications & Technology (“Subcommittee”).

CCA commends the Subcommittee’s commitment to expand mobile broadband across all areas of the United States, including through legislative initiatives like S.19, the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless, or MOBILE NOW Act. Policies that streamline deployment and make additional spectrum available for mobile broadband fuel robust expansion of advanced telecommunications services. These wireless services drive significant innovation, economic growth, and job creation. Policies contained in MOBILE NOW will provide certainty, especially as it relates to working with federal entities, and reduce barriers to network deployment, and streamline siting regulations and application processes. Combined with policies that will ensure additional spectrum resources are made available for commercial use, these efforts will expand mobile broadband today and lay the groundwork for the United States to lead the world in 5G. CCA supports Congressional action to advance legislation that promotes these policies.

CCA reiterates that spectrum is the foundation for the wireless economy.<sup>2</sup> As testified on March 21, 2017, before this Subcommittee at the “Broadband: Deploying America’s 21st Century Infrastructure” hearing, it is important to remember that even before construction begins, carriers must have access to spectrum to provide mobile broadband services to customers over physical infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. CCA members stand ready to put spectrum to use to expand mobile broadband coverage and serve their consumers. CCA therefore commends Congress’ continued focus to enable 5G networks

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<sup>1</sup> CCA is the nation’s leading association for competitive wireless providers and stakeholders across the United States. CCA’s membership includes nearly 100 competitive wireless providers ranging from small, rural carriers serving fewer than 5,000 customers to regional and national providers serving millions of customers. CCA also represents approximately 200 associate members consisting of businesses, vendors, and suppliers that serve carriers of all sizes.

<sup>2</sup> See Statement of Steven K. Berry, Broadband: Deploying America’s 21st Century Infrastructure, House Energy & Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, 115th Cong. (Mar. 2017), available at <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF16/20170321/105740/HHRG-115-IF16-Wstate-BerryS-20170321.pdf>.

and advanced mobile services by unlocking additional licensed and unlicensed spectrum resources. While mobile broadband demands continue to grow exponentially, competitive carriers' access to finite spectrum resources is increasingly strained. Policymakers must continue to move rapidly to foster fair and robust access to spectrum resources for all carriers, especially in rural areas. To that end, CCA supports the bipartisan H.R. 1814, the Rural Spectrum Accessibility Act, recently introduced by Representatives Kinzinger and Loeb sack.

CCA looks forward to building upon the Committee's work to date to close the digital divide and streamline mobile broadband deployment, powering innovation, job creation, and economic growth, particularly in rural and remote areas of the United States. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven K. Berry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Steven K. Berry  
President & CEO  
Competitive Carriers Association

cc: Chairman Greg Walden  
Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
Sen. John Thune  
Sen. Bill Nelson