



AMERICAN CABLE
ASSOCIATION

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January 29, 2018

The Hon. Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Communications and Technology
Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Michael Doyle
Ranking Member
Communications and Technology
Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Closing the Digital Divide – Broadband Infrastructure Solutions

Dear Chairman Walden, Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Member Pallone, and Ranking Member Doyle:

On behalf of the American Cable Association (ACA) and its nearly 800 members from across the country, I would like to thank you for your leadership and focus upon the challenges of providing 21st Century broadband to all corners of this nation. Over the past year the ACA has been meeting with policy makers on both sides of the Hill and both sides of the aisle to discuss how to address consumers' needs for broadband infrastructure.

As we review the list of legislative ideas the Committee is considering, some mirror what our members consider priorities, and others reflect concepts we have discussed with the Subcommittee. ACA has members who operate in rural communities, suburban neighborhoods, and some who were devastated by the rash of natural disasters this year. Consequently, the array of bills before the Subcommittee impact many of our members in varying ways. However, we all share the view that taking steps to promote broadband upgrades and deployment in unserved areas is important.

From reading the list of measures before the Committee it is clear that you too understand what it takes to bring broadband to all Americans. While all have some merit, we particularly support the resolution introduced by Chairman Latta that any infrastructure legislation to promote broadband internet access or communications facilities deployment should treat all broadband and communications facilities in a competitively and technology neutral manner. We also support Vice

Connecting Hometown America

Chairman Lance's resolution expressing the sense of the House that broadband funds may not be used where there is an existing broadband provider. Both of these principles are foundational to our organization, and ones that must underlie any legislation because they will maximize consumer welfare, increase economic growth, and make communities throughout the country thrive.

H.R. 4813, introduced by Rep. Ryan Costello, would direct the GAO to conduct a study on the complementary role of unlicensed spectrum in assisting with Internet traffic management and the potential for Gigabit Wi-Fi service in spectrum bands below 6 GHz. This is yet another good idea. As for additional legislation, we urge the Subcommittee to examine the approaches I will discuss in my testimony on January 30th. We believe it will enable you to bridge the digital divide sooner and with more sustainable results.

We know there are many other good ideas being considered by the Subcommittee from Members representing all regions of the country and the ACA looks forward to working with you and each of your colleagues to develop a broadband network package of ideas ready to include in whatever infrastructure initiative the Congress undertakes.

Thank you for the time and leadership on these issues that are vital to ACA's members.

Most respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew M. Polka", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew M. Polka

MMP/gb