



January 30, 2018

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn and Ranking Member Doyle:

Competitive Carriers Association (CCA)¹ commends the Subcommittee for its continued focus on improving and streamlining mobile broadband infrastructure deployment policies. Today's legislative hearing marks an important step towards advancing legislation to accelerate mobile broadband deployment and connect all Americans regardless of where they live, work, or play. As I testified before this Subcommittee last March, to deploy broadband networks to meet today's exponentially growing demands for mobile data, and to lead the world in 5G, action to address broadband infrastructure deployment challenges cannot wait.

Congress must act swiftly to enact policies that support deployment and close the digital divide that plagues rural America. CCA supports many of the legislative initiatives the Subcommittee will discuss today, and encourages policymakers to continue to find bipartisan solutions to the challenges of deploying critical broadband infrastructure in a timely manner. Specifically, CCA appreciates the Subcommittee's focus on creating policies that:

- Foster creation of coverage maps using reliable, standardized data;
- Streamline deployment, including targeting and eliminating historical and environmental reviews where redundant or not necessary;
- Provide certainty for the application process, including streamlined and standard applications, timing, and appropriate fees;

¹CCA 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 associate members including vendors and suppliers that provide products and services throughout the mobile communications supply chain.

- Promote mobile broadband in croplands and ranchlands to support precision agriculture; and,
- Provide dedicated funding for mobile broadband in rural areas.

Barriers to infrastructure deployment and unnecessary complexities reduce certainty, increase costs, and delay broadband deployment, especially in rural areas. These policy solutions will reduce burdens on carriers and government resources alike. CCA supports efforts to streamline review and facilitate mobile broadband deployment to meet Congress's mandate for reasonably comparable services in urban and rural areas. As the legislative process moves forward, CCA thanks the Subcommittee for its efforts and stands ready to support policies that accelerate mobile broadband deployment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven K. Berry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven K. Berry
President & CEO
Competitive Carriers Association