



January 29, 2018

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chair, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn,

The Power and Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) represents contractors, manufacturers, and distributors who build and repair America's power and communications infrastructure, including electric transmission, distribution, and substation facilities and broadband, telephone, and cable television systems. PCCA appreciates the bipartisan approach you and members of the subcommittee are taking by offering a range of legislative measures aimed at deploying broadband across America more effectively.

PCCA strongly supports the Communications Facilities Deployment on Federal Property Act of 2018 (HR 4795), which would require executive agencies to use common application forms and cost-based application fees for easements, rights-of-way, and master contracts for placement of communications facility installations on federal property.

The Streamlining Permitting to Enable Efficient Deployment of Broadband Infrastructure (SPEED) Act (HR 4842) is another bill of interest to PCCA. The legislation would exempt certain broadband facilities in existing rights-of-way from environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and exempt facilities from environmental reviews where other facilities on the same property have already been approved. Importantly, the SPEED Act would also exempt expansion of broadband facilities from NEPA reviews if the expansion of the broadband facility is no more than 30 feet in any direction.

Although PCCA does not have an official position on policy regarding "one-touch make-ready" (OTMR), we support HR 4858, the Clearing Local Impediments Makes Broadband Open to New Competition and Enhancements (CLIMB ONCE) Act, which would confirm state authority to adopt an OTMR policy for pole attachments. Allowing states to enact policy that would allow approved broadband and power contractors to perform this work would avoid multiple reviews and truck rolls for each of the providers already attached to the pole.

PCCA also appreciates the resolutions offered by Reps. Leonard Lance (R-N.J.), Bob Latta (R-Ohio), Richard Hudson (R-N.C.), and Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), which promote policy to ensure permitting and regulatory requirements are coordinated to maximize the benefits that come with broadband investment and to focus broadband deployment on underserved areas.

PCCA looks forward to helping advance these and many other bills under consideration by the subcommittee through the legislative process this year, and we thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Best Regards,

Jim Dillahunty, President