



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**  
**Eben Wyman: (703) 750-1326**

**House Subcommittee Considers Several Measures to Facilitate Broadband Deployment**  
*Legislation Addresses Permit Delays, Regulatory Hurdles*

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**Washington, D.C.** – The Power and Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) strongly supports several legislative measures introduced by the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology that would establish priorities for broadband buildouts, including permit reform, streamlining environmental hurdles, and standardizing application forms for broadband infrastructure improvements.

“PCCA appreciates the bipartisan approach by Chairman Blackburn and the members of the subcommittee who are offering a range of legislative measures aimed at deploying broadband across America more effectively,” said PCCA President Jim Dillahunty, of Henkels and McCoy, Blue Bell, Pa. “Many of these bills would take needed steps to provide unserved and underserved areas the high-speed internet service that is needed now more than ever.”

PCCA strongly supports the Communications Facilities Deployment on Federal Property Act of 2018 (HR 4795), offered by Rep. Mimi Walters (R-Calif.). The legislation 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.

PCCA also supports the Streamlining Permitting to Enable Efficient Deployment of Broadband Infrastructure (SPEED) Act (HR 4842), which would exempt certain broadband facilities in existing rights-of-way from environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The bill would also exempt facilities from environmental reviews where other facilities on the same property have already been approved. Importantly, the SPEED Act would exempt expansion of broadband facilities from environmental and historic preservation 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, introduced by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) The legislation would confirm state authority to adopt an OTMR policy for pole attachments, which allows attachers and pole owners to use a contractor or set of contractors, approved by pole owners, to coordinate and perform all work related to a new attachment. Under OTMR policy, new attachers could use a single or set of approved contractors to complete all of the work in a coordinated timeframe in lieu of several crews to perform sequential make-ready work on a given pole. Allowing states to enact policy that would allow for 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 members work every day on projects that provide and enhance broadband services to localities across the country, both urban and rural, and we look forward to helping advance many of these bills through the legislative process this year.

*The Power and Communication Contractors Association 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.*

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