

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

A year ago, a bipartisan coalition of 71 Members of Congress wrote to you advocating for the inclusion of rural broadband connectivity investments in your infrastructure proposal. We strongly believe that high-speed Internet access is essential to ensuring rural residents are not left behind in this increasingly interconnected world.

We are concerned about recent reports that your forthcoming proposal may not include investments in rural broadband connectivity. We write today to reiterate our support for the proposal to include funding specifically for rural broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas.

In the Information Age, the Internet offers endless possibilities. Unfortunately, these possibilities are not afforded to many rural Americans. This digital divide between urban and rural America is significant and demands a focused and aggressive response.

Rural communities must have adequate broadband infrastructure to attract and retain businesses and human resources, close the homework gap for students and teachers, open innovative and convenient pathways to telemedicine for seniors and providers, and help farmers increase efficiencies in their barns and on their land. The future wellbeing of our communities is dependent upon this technology.

We appreciate the Administration's effort to promote policies that will streamline and incentivize rural broadband deployment; however, we also encourage the inclusion of connectivity investments in your infrastructure proposal. We remain committed to working with you to deliver the promise of robust broadband infrastructure to rural America.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress



ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress