



The Voice of America's Broadband Providers

Letter for the Record

July 17, 2018

House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing: "Realizing the Benefits of Rural Broadband: Challenges and Solutions."

Dear Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Member Doyle, and members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supplement the record of your hearing with our appreciation for the work the Subcommittee has done under the leadership of Chairman Blackburn to address the challenges we face in closing the digital divide.

ITTA member companies serve some of the most rural parts of our country.¹ Our members include price cap companies and rate of return companies operating under legacy mechanisms and those participating in the A-CAM program. Collectively, our member companies require a regulatory environment that promotes investment while guaranteeing certainty. We applaud the work this Subcommittee has done to help ensure that the appropriate regulatory environment is maintained.

As the Subcommittee continues to examine challenges to closing the digital divide, ITTA encourages it to focus on ensuring that the high-cost program of the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") remains robust and able to adapt to meet the challenges of providing next-generation broadband services to consumers in rural America.

Thank you, Chairman Blackburn, for your continued work to ensure that all Tennessee consumers and the rest of rural America have access to broadband. ITTA looks forward to continuing to work with you and the members of the Subcommittee on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Raak".

Paul Raak
Vice President, Legislative Affairs
ITTA – The Voice of America's Broadband Providers

¹ The members of ITTA provide a broad range of high-quality broadband, wireline and wireless voice, video, and other communications services on a wholesale and retail basis to residential and business customers in predominantly rural areas across almost all 50 states.