

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2018

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
H-310, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Aderholt, Culberson, and Graves; and Ranking Members Bishop, Serrano, and Quigley:

As you begin deliberations on the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018, we write to respectfully request that, of the \$20 billion included in the Bipartisan Budget Act for infrastructure projects, a substantial portion be targeted specifically toward building out broadband infrastructure in rural America.

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 success of America's rural communities depends on the build out of this essential technology.

We write to seek your support for ensuring significant resources from the Bipartisan Budget Act be set aside for rural broadband deployment in both fiscal years 2018 and 2019, distributed appropriately amongst the existing programs under the jurisdictions of your respective Subcommittees. Furthermore, we request all broadband funding allocations be coordinated with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and provide for updating the National Broadband Map produced by the agency. We are committed to working with you to accomplish our goal.

We recognize the challenges of the current fiscal environment and thank you for your effort and dutiful consideration of this request. Your leadership on the Appropriations Committee is most appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



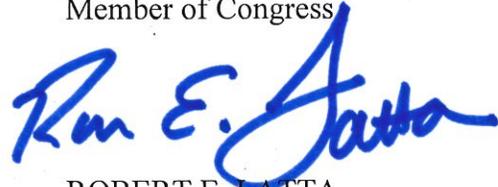
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress