



JONATHAN SPALTER
President and Chief Executive Officer

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn and Ranking Member Doyle:

Thank you for holding today's House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing, "Realizing the Benefits of Rural Broadband: Challenges and Solutions." Broadband providers appreciate your continued focus on and commitment to the critical issue of broadband infrastructure deployment to expand opportunities for all Americans.

Addressing our nation's infrastructure needs, including our digital infrastructure, is a critical national priority. This subcommittee has played an important role leading the conversation by introducing legislation that prioritizes parity through technical neutrality and carefully tailored mechanisms that rightly focus federal attention on connecting the unserved areas in our country.

USTelecom and its members seek to ensure that any new federal infrastructure investment program supports broadband by maximizing consumer benefits, minimizing cost, producing results quickly, and ensuring accountability. This includes not only leveraging existing federal expertise in promoting and sustaining broadband access but also making available sufficient resources to meet the challenges of establishing and sustaining robust broadband in rural America.

As the committee continues its work on these issues, I encourage you to ensure sustainable and direct federal funding to support rural broadband deployment and responsibly reduce regulatory barriers, both of which will also incentivize more private investment. USTelecom and its member companies look forward to working with you to help close the digital divide. As we continue the sprint toward the next generation of communications networks, your leadership in maintaining policy frameworks to spur continued investment, innovation and deployment will help expedite the realization of a fully connected future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Spalter".

Jonathan Spalter