

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on
“Our Wireless Future: Building A Comprehensive Approach to Spectrum Policy”
July 16, 2019**

Mr. Derek Khlopin, Senior Policy Advisor, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The Honorable Tom O’Halleran (D-AZ)

- 1. Mr. Khlopin, under the MOBILE NOW Act signed into law last Congress, NTIA and the FCC are directed to consider “the importance of deployment of wireless broadband services in rural areas” when identifying a total of 255 MEGAHERTZ of spectrum to become available for wireless use.**
 - a. In making 255 MEGAHERTZ of spectrum available, what measures does NTIA (in consultation with the FCC) plan to implement to assist rural and underserved communities in gaining access to this spectrum once it becomes available?**

Response: The MOBILE NOW Act directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to identify at least 255 megahertz of Federal and non-Federal spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use by December 31, 2022. (Sec. 703(a)). Once identified, the FCC authorizes use of such frequencies through licensing or on an unlicensed basis, in coordination with NTIA where federal spectrum allocations are implicated.

Currently, NTIA, through its BroadbandUSA program, provides technical assistance, convenes regional events, workshops, and educational webinars and produces a variety of broadband publications/guides to help state and local governments, industry, and non-profits. In addition, NTIA educates other federal agencies on broadband connectivity and adoption issues and helps coordinate federal agency broadband efforts by serving on the Executive Leadership Team of the American Broadband Initiative (formerly known as the Broadband Interagency Working Group). As part of its work, BroadbandUSA also coordinates a State Broadband Leaders Network, and works with NIST on Global Cities Team Challenge Smart City initiatives (e.g., Smart Ag and Rural Supercluster, Smart Building Supercluster and Smart States Initiative). Through these efforts, NTIA works cooperatively with other federal agencies to reduce barriers to broadband deployment, including wireless connectivity, and will continue to educate stakeholders about potential avenues for utilizing spectrum-based solutions to help address gaps in rural broadband.