

Opening Statement of Representative Billy Long
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps”
September 11, 2019

As Prepared for Delivery

I’d like to thank the witness’ for being here, and I’m happy to see the subcommittee is prioritizing the need to develop accurate broadband maps.

For rural communities, such as those in Missouri’s 7th Congressional District, access to broadband is scarce. I think we can all agree that mapping — graphically displaying where broadband is and is not available at certain speeds — is a critical tool in closing the digital divide.

As we move forward, I believe it is important that any broadband mapping update be paired with appropriate enforcement measures to ensure that providers’ submissions are complete and accurate – which is why I’m working with my colleagues on H.R. 4227, the MAPS Act.

In closing, I’d like to thank Representatives Dave Loebsack (D-IA), Bob Latta (R-OH), and Donald McEachin (D-VA) for their work on both the

Broadband DATA Act and the MAPS Act and I am committed to working together towards a subcommittee markup.