

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on
“Empowering and Connecting Communities through Digital Equity and Internet
Adoption”
January 29, 2020**

Ms. Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)

1. How would access to more unlicensed spectrum promote broadband adoption?

Response:

In order to obtain a more nuanced understanding of this issue, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance defers to the Director of the Wireless Future Project from New America, Micheal Calabrese’s Testimony to Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet:

Access to more unlicensed spectrum opens up the potential for more local solutions, particularly in rural areas. The 5.9 and 6 GHz proceedings pending at the FCC exemplify both the promise and peril of the current imperative to share or reallocate spectrum to advance America’s 5G future. Unlicensed spectrum is what ultimately makes both mobile and fixed broadband service more available, fast and affordable to consumers and businesses nationwide. More unlicensed spectrum is needed to distribute a gigabit or more of bandwidth to all the users and devices in our nation’s homes, offices, schools and other venues. Since the NTIA is primarily an advocate for federal spectrum users, and the FCC is focused primarily on promoting private industry and the economy, in our split system of spectrum governance it is imperative that Congress play a mediating role in defining the balance that best serves the broader national interest.¹

¹ Michael Calabrese, Director Of Wireless Future Project at Open Technology Institute, Testimony from “The State of U.S. Spectrum Policy” United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet. p. 4-10.