

September 24, 2021

Honorable Lizzie Fletcher Member of Congress 119 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fletcher:

On behalf of NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association, we are writing to commend you for introducing H.R. 5058, the "Broadband Incentives for Communities Act." NATE is pleased to support this legislation.

NATE is a non-profit trade association dedicated to providing a unified voice for companies in the diverse tower and communications infrastructure industries. Today, the Association represents almost 1,100 member companies that construct, service or maintain hundreds of thousands of communications towers and next generation networks throughout the United States and 13 other countries. NATE represents 119 member companies in Texas, including locations in the 7th District, which employ skilled workers and communications professionals and support Internet and communications needs throughout their communities.

We have long advocated that broadband infrastructure is essential infrastructure, and NATE shares your view on the importance of high-speed Internet during the pandemic, with so many Americans forced to work, study and play remotely.

NATE is supporting a number of bills that would address the nation's critical communications needs while helping to close the digital divide, including the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package that contains \$65 billion in broadband funding. The grant program you propose in H.R. 5058 would promote the efficient deployment of broadband in this country, enhancing the nation's economic competitiveness, homeland security, and vital communications capabilities.

We look forward to working with you on this and other important initiatives.

Sincerely,

Todd Schlekeway

NATE President & CEO

Jim Goldwater

NATE Legislative Affairs

NATE Government Relations

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