

1. A September 18, 2025, letter from the Association of American Railroads.
2. A September 17, 2025, letter from America's Communications Association.
3. A September 17, 2025, letter from Damage Prevention Action Center.
4. A September 17, 2025, letter from Western Governors' Association.
5. A September 18, 2025, letter from NATE.
6. A September 18, 2025, letter from PCCA.
7. A September 17, 2025 letter from NRECA.
8. An article titled, "FCC Chair Carr says 'we're not done yet' after Jimmy Kimmel suspension by ABC."
9. A September 16, 2025, letter from American Public Power Association.
10. An article titled, "Trump floats pulling licenses if networks are 'against' him after Jimmy Kimmel suspended."
11. A March 1, 2023, letter to Fox Corporation leadership from Charles Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries.
12. A February 22, 2021, article titled, "Democrats ask cable and streaming providers about their role in spreading misinformation ahead of Capitol riot."



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN RAILROADS**

**IAN N. JEFFERIES**

President & CEO

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September 18, 2025

The Honorable John Joyce  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:

I write today regarding the Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act. I appreciate you and your staff's work on this legislation and the time they have taken to discuss this legislation throughout the process. The industry recognizes the need to deploy broadband for rural America and agrees that it must be done in a safe and efficient manner.

While broadband companies often cite isolated examples of delays and high fees, most companies attempting to access railroad property have a different experience — one rooted in safety, efficiency, and partnership. For example, one of our member railroad processes thousands of utility permit requests annually, with the average review time for complete applications at 25 days. Many permits are approved in under 30 days. Legislation must balance the goals of deploying broadband and operating a safe national rail network.

It is because of this commitment to finding the right balance that the rail industry has focused on the following key principles when reviewing this and similar legislation: safety must be the top priority; railroads must have sufficient time and information to process applications; railroads should be given fair and complete reimbursement, including reimbursement of any out-of-pocket costs to facilitate the work; and given the top priority of safety, Department of Transportation's regulations governing track and employee safety standards must be respected.

As you know, railroads not only own and control their rights-of-way, but know what lies beneath them, which can include rail communications systems, utilities, pipelines, or other buried infrastructure. Therefore, railroads have developed efficient and cost-effective processes for the safe permitting of infrastructure in, on, under, and above their rights-of-way. Railroads' existing processes have a proven track record of timely facilitating broadband deployment.

Unfortunately, from our members' experience only about 30% of submitted applications for access to railroad rights-of-way contain all the information necessary for a proper safety review

of the installation, while unauthorized installations have resulted in serious safety risks. This is why the provisions of the bill that do not allow for proper engineering review by rail infrastructure experts cause concern from a rail-safety perspective. Specifically, the process that allows broadband providers to install broadband on railroad rights-of-way after merely notifying the railroad could seriously compromise the safety of railroad employees, the workers performing the construction activities, and the communities near the track.

Again, I appreciate your engagement with the industry thus far on these important issues and urge you to continue to engage directly with railroads to understand the permitting processes, our safety protocols, and efforts to work with broadband companies. I look forward to continuing working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian N. Jefferies", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian N. Jefferies

Cc: The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications & Technology



AMERICA'S  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

ACA CONNECTS – SINCE 1993

Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO  
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September 17, 2025

The Honorable John Joyce  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Joyce:

On behalf of the nearly 500 Members of America's Communications Association (ACA Connects), I want to thank you for your time and effort on the Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act. ACA Connects was founded in 1993 as the voice of small and mid-sized broadband and cable providers on federal legislative and regulatory telecommunication matters. It advocates for policies that allow our smaller and independent operators to thrive and deliver affordable services, particularly in rural communities. Our membership includes operations in your state and we have corporate and municipal members in all 50 states.

The work that you and your colleagues are doing to make sure that we can speed deployments, upgrades, and expanded services is vitally important and appreciated. In addition, I appreciate the time you have spent with our Members in Pennsylvania when you met with them in Pittsburgh. It is clear that you have identified a recurrent problem that our Members face that often is not recognized a major impediment to timely and low-cost deployments and upgrades to our networks. Access to public rights-of-way and rail corridors arise as problems that I hear about time and time again that result in delays and inflated costs that all impact consumers. We appreciate your effort to address this problem and look forward to working with you to get this enacted into law.

2025 is a consequential year for our Members as Congress and the Administration address a number of key issues ranging from how the BEAD program is deployed, what happens with the Universal Service Fund moving forward, permitting reforms, and even spectrum matters.

I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you at some point about how each of these items impacts the services that your communities can receive.

Thank you again for the time and leadership. The Members of ACA Connects are extremely grateful that you have prioritized your efforts to address the issues they face in deploying and serving your constituents.

Sincerely,

Grant B. Spellmeyer  
President and CEO  
America's Communications Association (ACA Connects)

**We Are The Premier Association Delivering High-Impact Advocacy and Support.**

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September 17, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and  
Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and  
Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2206 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing, “Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting”**

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Hudson and Ranking Member Matsui:

The [Damage Prevention Action Center \(DPAC\)](http://damagepreventionactioncenter.com) is writing to encourage the committee to consider including damage prevention requirements as a fundamental component of its legislative efforts to expedite broadband permitting and deployment. As the committee examines solutions to accelerate critical communications infrastructure, there is an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that rapidly deployed broadband networks can function reliably and safely for American families and businesses.

DPAC is a coalition of energy, utility and construction industry leaders advocating for public policies and industry practices that protect America's critical underground utility infrastructure and those who work and live near these important assets.<sup>1</sup> Our members understand that true infrastructure deployment success requires not just speed, but reliability.

**The Cost of Deployment Without Damage Prevention Considerations**

According to the [Common Ground Alliance's](https://commongroundalliance.org) (CGA) [Damage Information Reporting Tool \(DIRT\) Report](https://dirt.commongroundalliance.com/),<sup>2</sup> damages to buried infrastructure in the U.S. costs our communities a staggering \$30 billion every year. Each of the hundreds of thousands of dig-ins to underground utilities disrupts businesses and communities, cuts off essential utility service, and can result in injuries and fatalities.

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<sup>1</sup> Damage Prevention Action Center members: <https://damagepreventionactioncenter.com/members/>

<sup>2</sup> Common Ground Alliance's 2024 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report:  
<https://dirt.commongroundalliance.com/>

The data reveals a particularly concerning trend: Telecommunications/cable TV work has emerged as a leading type of work involved in damages, accounting for 23% of reported infrastructure damage incidents in 2024. This means that as we accelerate broadband deployment, we must be cautious to not simultaneously create conditions that damage the very infrastructure—both communications and other critical utilities—that American communities depend on.

### **The Opportunity to Enhance Reliability**

The legislative proposals under consideration—including regulatory streamlining, expedited permitting timelines and digital application processes—represent a transformative moment for infrastructure policy. However, these initiatives will achieve their fullest potential only if they incorporate damage prevention considerations from the outset.

[CGA's 2024 DIRT Report](#) specifically recommends that policymakers "leverage permitting processes for telecommunications installers to include mandatory damage prevention protocols." This recommendation is based on clear evidence: Telecommunications work consistently ranks among the highest contributors to infrastructure damage root causes, particularly in locating-related failures where telecom-related damages show significantly higher rates compared to other utility sectors.

### **Practical Solutions That Serve All Stakeholders**

It is crucial to understand that broadband deployment affects far more than just broadband infrastructure. The 2024 DIRT Report shows that a significant percentage of damages involve facility operators (or their contractors) damaging each other's infrastructure and their own facilities. This means that broadband deployment without proper damage prevention policies can disrupt natural gas delivery, other telecommunications networks, electric service and water/sewer operations.

Effective damage prevention requirements are an essential efficiency measure in infrastructure deployment. When broadband installers fail to follow proper damage prevention protocols, the results include:

- Service outages affecting multiple utility types, not just telecom
- Costly repairs and deployment delays
- Safety risks to workers and the public
- Liability issues that create long-term uncertainty for providers
- Community disruption that undermines public support for infrastructure projects

The legislative framework you are developing has the potential to achieve the best of both worlds: Rapid broadband deployment that strengthens rather than compromises our overall infrastructure reliability. By incorporating damage prevention protocols into your streamlined permitting processes, you can:

- Reduce long-term deployment costs by preventing expensive damage incidents



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- Improve public safety and maintain community support for infrastructure projects
- Ensure that the billions of dollars invested in broadband infrastructure deliver sustained value

DPAC stands ready to work with this Committee and Congress to integrate practical, efficient damage prevention requirements into any broadband permitting legislation. We believe this approach will not slow deployment but instead will ensure that the infrastructure we build rapidly can serve Americans reliably for decades to come.

This opportunity extends beyond simply expediting permits—it encompasses creating a framework for infrastructure development that is fast, sustainable and safe. This is truly an opportunity to demonstrate that American infrastructure policy can achieve speed without sacrificing safety, reliability or the protection of existing critical systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah K. Magruder Lyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah K. Magruder Lyle  
Executive Director, Damage Prevention Action Center



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September 17, 2025

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
2323 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hudson and Ranking Member Matsui:

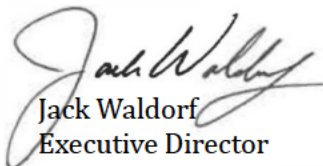
In light of the Subcommittee's September 18, 2025, hearing, Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting, attached please find Western Governors' Association (WGA) policy resolutions 2023-07, Broadband Connectivity, and 2023-10, Infrastructure Permitting.

In the broadband resolution, Western Governors encourage federal agencies to make permitting on federal lands more efficient by prioritizing reviews, setting consistent requirements, and improving interagency coordination. Western Governors also support efforts to reduce permitting timelines for broadband infrastructure co-located with existing infrastructure, and call for additional permitting staff to prevent project delays. The permitting resolution outlines recommendations to streamline federal permitting and support the timely completion of infrastructure projects across the West.

I request that you include this document in the permanent record of the hearing, as it articulates Western Governors' collective and bipartisan policy on this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Jack Waldorf  
Executive Director

Attachments





## Policy Resolution 2023-07 Broadband Connectivity

### A. **BACKGROUND**

High-speed internet, commonly referred to as “broadband,” is the critical infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a modern-day necessity for businesses, individuals, schools, and government. Many rural and tribal western communities lack the business case for private broadband investment because of the high cost of infrastructure and the low number of customers in potential service areas. Factors such as the vast distances between these communities, challenging terrain, sparse middle mile and long-haul fiber-optic cable, and the need to permit and site infrastructure across federal, state, territorial, tribal, and private lands make planning, siting, and maintaining broadband infrastructure especially difficult. This has left many rural businesses and citizens at a competitive disadvantage compared to urban and suburban areas with robust broadband access.

Historically, federal broadband investment has struggled to address these inequities, due in large part to inaccurate and overstated data. Whether or not an area is considered “served” depends not only on if households have access to the internet, but also the speeds and bandwidth that they have access to. This determination has significant effects on a community’s eligibility for federal broadband infrastructure support and can prevent businesses, local governments, and other entities from applying for and securing federal funds to assist underserved or unserved communities. High-quality data is required to ensure that current public broadband deployment efforts are cost-effective and prioritize these areas, while digital inclusion efforts are needed to provide access to affordable broadband and devices and to build the digital skills to utilize broadband.

### B. **GOVERNORS’ POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Western Governors encourage Congress and federal agencies to recognize that the current definition of broadband – 25/3 Mbps – does not correspond with the requisite download and upload speeds necessary to support many business, education, and health care applications that promote economic and community prosperity. We support efforts to adopt a higher, scalable, and consistent standard across federal broadband programs – at least 100/20 Mbps and scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical – that more accurately reflects modern innovations and bandwidth demands.
2. Western Governors request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other federal entities prioritize scalable broadband infrastructure investments that meet communities’ increased bandwidth demands into the future. Funds for equipment maintenance and upgrades are essential to ensure that federal broadband investments continue to provide high-quality service.
3. While Western Governors are heartened by significant federal investments in broadband, principally the \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), it is imperative that

federal program design and implementation does not repeat the mistakes of the past. Federal funding represents a historic opportunity to close the digital divide and should help states and territories reach areas in most need of assistance. To do so, Western Governors urge the FCC, NTIA, USDA, and other federal agencies involved in broadband deployment to work closely with Governors and state and territorial agencies and respond to and address their needs and concerns prior to releasing large tranches of funding. In particular, federal agencies that make independent broadband infrastructure awards should consult with states and territories prior to finalizing awards to ensure they align with state and territorial BEAD plans.

4. Due to their unique characteristics, western states and territories have a disproportionate amount of high-cost areas to serve. Federal funding and allocation formulas should reflect the exorbitant costs and challenges that the West faces when deploying broadband so that states and territories receive adequate funding to bring sufficient internet access to as many hard-to-reach households as possible.
5. The FCC should recognize state and territorial institutional knowledge about broadband needs and ensure that they have a significant role in data collection, verification, and mapping. The FCC should also make map challenge processes transparent and give states and territories ample time and resources to participate in these processes.
6. Western Governors note that continued federal investment will be needed to shore up connectivity gaps and backfill BEAD funding. We encourage Congress to consider supplementary funding for broadband deployment, including innovative and flexible ways to redirect existing resources, such as the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.
7. Western Governors recognize that rural communities have unique challenges related to completing broadband deployment objectives for federal grant requirements. We recommend that the federal government allow states and territories to assume control of these funds for broadband purposes if grantees do not meet their objectives. Recovering funding at the state and territorial level would help communities seek a new solution in response to a state or territorial Notice of Funding Opportunity or redirect the capital to other pressing broadband needs.
8. Streamlining permitting processes is critical for western states, territories, and partners to meet federal funding deadlines. Western Governors encourage federal agencies to pursue strategies to prioritize reviews and standardize requirements for broadband infrastructure permits on federal lands and improve planning and permitting coordination between public land management agencies. We support efforts to reduce permitting timelines for broadband infrastructure co-located with existing structures and other linear infrastructure, such as roads, transmission lines, and pipelines. The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Forest Service's online mapping platforms identifying telecommunications infrastructure sites on their lands will be helpful tools to accomplish this goal. Further, Governors urge DOI, USDA, and other federal land management agencies to allocate sufficient funding to support additional permitting staff. Without sufficient staff, western states and territories will see backlogs and long permitting timelines that will jeopardize projects that cross federal lands.

9. Regulations affecting broadband infrastructure permitting and siting vary by state and can create additional obstacles to private and public investment. Where possible, Western Governors should work together to minimize this barrier.
10. Western Governors encourage Congress and federal agencies to address application barriers for businesses, local governments, cooperatives, tribes, and other entities involved with broadband deployment in rural communities. The Governors have highlighted substantive policy recommendations related to these barriers in our rural development policy resolution. Western Governors are also committed to sharing best practices on how to collaborate with organizations, localities, and tribes in our states and territories, and establish a strategy among these partners on applying for federal broadband programs to enhance success and reduce competition for funds.
11. Western Governors appreciate USDA and FCC efforts to promote on-farm connectivity and the growth of the precision agriculture sector, which reduces water and pesticide usage and increases productivity. We request that Congress provide additional funding to support the adoption of precision agriculture and extend connectivity from the home to the field and encourage both agencies to engage with Governors' offices, state and territorial broadband representatives, and state departments of agriculture as they pursue policy and program initiatives to support this technology.
12. Western Governors recommend that adequate wireless spectrum be allocated to support rural residential connectivity and advanced and emerging agricultural technologies.
13. Western Governors emphasize the growing importance of internet exchange points (IXPs) in promoting cost-effective, reliable broadband service in rural areas. We encourage Congress and federal agencies to promote investment in rural IXPs via applicable broadband deployment programs, legislative proposals addressing infrastructure, and other methods.
14. Western Governors encourage federal agencies to continue expanding the eligibility of electric and telephone cooperatives to pursue USDA and FCC broadband deployment program support, as cooperatives' existing infrastructure and access to rights-of-way can help promote low-cost connectivity solutions for rural communities.
15. Western Governors urge federal agencies and Congress to expand policy, programmatic, and fiscal opportunities to improve broadband connectivity on tribal lands. This includes designing federal programs in a way that promotes partnerships between tribes, states, and various broadband providers. We recommend that federal broadband programs allocate a designated portion of their available funding to supporting projects on tribal lands.
16. Western Governors encourage Congress and federal agencies to leverage community anchor institutions in rural communities to spur connectivity to surrounding areas. We support efforts to advance "to and through" policies that provide flexibility to incentivize additional private or public broadband infrastructure investment beyond connected community anchor institutions.
17. Western Governors appreciate USDA Rural Development's efforts to promote broadband connectivity across the rural West and responsiveness to our recommendations. We encourage the federal government to streamline USDA's many broadband offerings and

authorize the Rural eConnectivity Program, otherwise known as the ReConnect Program. In so doing, USDA should require ReConnect to consult with state and territorial broadband offices prior to making awards to ensure coordination with state and territorial broadband infrastructure deployment plans.

18. Western Governors support efforts to promote flexibility within the FCC E-Rate Program in order to deliver home connectivity solutions for unserved and underserved students and respond to connectivity issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage the FCC to support bus wi-fi and other creative efforts that seek to address the homework gap.
19. Western Governors recognize the importance of ensuring that individuals and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity to reap the benefits of our digital economy. The Digital Equity Act within the IIJA provides states with capacity grants to address needs for digital skills in newly connected communities. Western Governors encourage NTIA to speed up the review and approval process for these funds so states and territories can begin to deploy funds. Further, Governors encourage Congress and federal agencies to work with states and territories to ascertain unmet and ongoing needs for digital equity following the expenditure of capacity grant funds in 2026.
20. Notwithstanding the many federal, state, and territorial initiatives to date to bring better connectivity to communities, internet affordability remains the largest barrier to closing the digital divide. Eighteen million households have access to the internet but cannot afford to connect to it. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a foundation of states' digital equity and inclusion strategies. Over 17 million households now rely on the program to pay for their monthly home internet bill each month. Western Governors call on Congress to continue to fund this vital program, without which future infrastructure projects may be underutilized.

**C. GOVERNORS' MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE**

1. The Governors direct WGA staff to work with Congressional committees of jurisdiction, the Executive Branch, and other entities, where appropriate, to achieve the objectives of this resolution.
2. Furthermore, the Governors direct WGA staff to consult with the Staff Advisory Council regarding its efforts to realize the objectives of this resolution and to keep the Governors apprised of its progress in this regard.

*This resolution will expire in June 2026. Western Governors enact new policy resolutions and amend existing resolutions on a semiannual basis. Please consult <http://www.westgov.org/resolutions> for the most current copy of a resolution and a list of all current WGA policy resolutions.*



## Policy Resolution 2023-10 Infrastructure Permitting

### A. **BACKGROUND**

Western states and territories face a host of challenges in balancing the protection of human health and the environment with the many needs of growing populations. Robust permitting processes help achieve that balance by ensuring environmental protection and public participation. Current permitting processes governing land management activities and infrastructure development can negatively affect the pace and scale of critically important projects: to provide wildfire mitigation and habitat improvements, to ensure safe roads and bridges, to build drinking water and wastewater capacity, to improve energy systems including transmission and distribution, to construct and place broadband and other telecommunications infrastructure, and to address supply chain shortages. These review processes can be improved and streamlined while still providing meaningful opportunities for public input and promoting a safe and healthy environment for our citizens.

### B. **GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT**

1. A clear, consistent, focused, and effective environmental review process is essential to protect environmental resources, ensure public participation, and facilitate timely decision making in the design, financing and execution of critical infrastructure and land management projects. Western Governors urge Congress and the Administration to streamline the review of critical infrastructure projects and land management activities, where appropriate, to achieve the goals of federal legislation that invests in improving infrastructure and enhancing ecosystem function.
2. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental considerations into their decision-making processes, which have been defined through regulations and guidance issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Federal agencies' NEPA review processes should seek to comply with CEQ requirements as efficiently and effectively as possible. Litigation risk should not cause agencies to take an overly cautious approach to the permitting process. Instead, federal agencies should fully utilize existing mechanisms to streamline the environmental review process, such as any available categorical exclusions, where appropriate, while ensuring that robust consideration of environmental factors remains integral to the process.
3. CEQ should revise its guidance to direct agencies to consider only those impacts that are reasonably foreseeable and have a proximate relationship to the proposed action and also include robust socioeconomic analysis.
4. Western Governors believe Congress and the Administration should take steps to mitigate the risk of excessive project delays associated with legal challenges. Judicial review of federal decisions can significantly delay project implementation and can cause significant cost increases due to the rising cost of materials and labor. Agencies should initiate tribal, state, and county consultation in the earliest stages of the review process.

5. Federal permitting policies and efforts to streamline permitting processes should be flexible enough to meet the diverse needs of local communities. While significant investment in energy generation and transmission, transportation infrastructure, and land and water management is needed across the West, the specific types of projects pursued within each municipality, state, territory and tribe will differ based on factors including geography, geology, economy, climate, as well as the differing policy goals of each jurisdiction. Creating a robust federal permitting framework that is accommodating of the diverse natural and political landscape of the West is essential for the success of the region as a whole.
6. Western Governors are concerned that lengthy reviews in federal permitting processes are impeding states' ability to invest federal funding that would provide environmental or conservation benefits and for which individual projects are typically similar in scope, such as construction of wildlife crossings on highways or fiber for wildfire monitoring cameras. CEQ should consider how best to streamline review processes for similar projects delivering an environmental or conservation outcome to ensure that federal funds are invested effectively.
7. The Administration and Congress, in continuing to evaluate permitting processes, should consider how to make these processes more accessible to underserved or historically disadvantaged communities, small and rural communities, and recipients of smaller awards to ensure that it is cost-effective for these groups to access federal funding. For example, small communities often choose not to apply for federal funding for transportation and infrastructure improvements because of the complexity and cost of the federal permitting process as well as the cost of compliance with federal requirements.
8. Western Governors recognize the value of interagency reviews, such as reviews under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, which authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review all federal actions affecting the quality of the environment, but urge Congress and federal agencies to evaluate and address steps that may cause undue delays in permitting, including by improving coordination of federal agency activities.
9. Western Governors recognize the importance of highly qualified staff in local agency field offices that evaluate and process permitting applications. Governors are concerned by shortages of realty specialists in local field offices, especially as many staff responsible for permitting at these agencies are becoming eligible for retirement. Significant federal investment in infrastructure and land management projects increases the workload on agency staff, exacerbating existing shortages. It also increases the need for technical assistance for local communities and states applying to use federal funds. Federal land management agencies that receive funding for staffing to implement federal investments should prioritize hiring qualified permitting staff in local field offices to ensure permits are processed in a timely manner and technical assistance needs are met.
10. The Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard operated by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) adds transparency, accessibility, and agency accountability to the permitting process. The Administration and Congress should continue to empower and support the FPISC in its efforts to improve the federal permitting process. However, the FPISC, which is limited to select projects that qualify for inclusion, is only a temporary solution while comprehensive permitting reforms are developed and implemented. Fundamentally, Congress and the Administration must pursue

comprehensive reforms that increase transparency, accessibility, and agency accountability for all projects.

**C. GOVERNORS' MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE**

1. The Governors direct WGA staff to work with Congressional committees of jurisdiction, the Executive Branch, and other entities, where appropriate, to achieve the objectives of this resolution.
2. Furthermore, the Governors direct WGA staff to consult with the Staff Advisory Council regarding its efforts to realize the objectives of this resolution and to keep the Governors apprised of its progress in this regard.

*This resolution will expire in June 2026. Western Governors enact new policy resolutions and amend existing resolutions on a semiannual basis. Please consult <http://www.westgov.org/resolutions> for the most current copy of a resolution and a list of all current WGA policy resolutions.*





September 18, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gary Palmer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Chairman Palmer, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the upcoming hearing, *“Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting.”* We appreciate the Committee’s leadership in addressing one of the most significant bottlenecks facing broadband deployment today. Many of the current regulatory practices under its framework onerously burden the deployment of broadband and wireless infrastructure, creating unnecessary delays to deploying across the nation, especially in rural and underserved communities.

As the national trade organization representing the contractors who build, maintain, and upgrade the nation’s wireless and broadband infrastructure, we see daily how permitting delays at the federal, state, and local levels obstruct deployment—especially in rural, underserved, and high-need areas. Cumbersome regulatory requirements, unpredictable timelines, and lack of consistency impose high costs, slow down projects, and risk leaving whole communities behind.

We are encouraged to see this committee take up an agenda that will enable those on the front lines of broadband deployment to get to work. If Congress takes action on the slate of legislation before the committee, we expect our members will spend less time waiting on bureaucratic reviews and instead be able to focus on closing the digital divide in communities across the nation. Every day delayed by regulatory arbitrage is one day our crews cannot go to work. That not only delays better connectivity in parts of the US that need it ,but also adds uncertainty to the men and women who are building and maintaining networks. We urge Congress to move forward on efforts that would:

- **Set clear, enforceable timelines** for issuing site permits and other authorizations for broadband deployment

- **Reduce duplicative reviews**, especially where a project has already undergone prior environmental or siting review;
- **Ensure consistency across jurisdictions** so that similar projects face similar requirements regardless of locale;
- **Minimize cost-barriers**, particularly fees, labor/time burdens, or regulatory obligations that do not relate directly to safety, environmental protection, or the public interest;
- **Prioritize deployment in underserved and rural areas**, where delays impose disproportionate burdens, both in terms of cost and lost opportunity;
- **Provide flexibility** for projects needing resilience (e.g., in wildfire zones or disaster-prone regions), recognizing that emergency communications and broadband are increasingly essential to both public safety and economic resilience.

Congress has clearly demonstrated closing the digital divide is a top priority. Making historic investments in broadband infrastructure—including via BEAD and other federal programs—represent an unprecedented opportunity. However, without permitting reform, many of these dollars will be absorbed by red tape rather than being fully deployed to connect every American.

NATE members stand ready to assist—providing data, deployment experience, technical expertise, and on-the-ground perspectives—in crafting legislation that achieves rapid, predictable, and reasonable permitting reforms. We appreciate your attention to these issues and respectfully urge timely action on the bipartisan proposals before you.

Thank you for your leadership and for holding this vital hearing. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every American has access to fast, reliable, and secure broadband in this digital age.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Schlekeway  
President & CEO

NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association



## Power & Communication Contractors Association

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September 18, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Subcommittee Chairman Hudson, and Ranking Member Matsui:

The Power & Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) fully supports efforts by the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to streamline the broadband permitting process.

PCCA is a national trade association representing contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who build and repair America's power and communication infrastructure, including broadband and electric transmission, distribution, and substation facilities. PCCA members comprise roughly 85% of the construction entities performing broadband deployment and the majority of electric power infrastructure projects across the United States.

Today's hearing<sup>1</sup> is timely and welcome as an unprecedented amount of underground fiber installation projects will break ground next year following the forthcoming release of \$42.45 billion in broadband infrastructure funding to state broadband offices through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.<sup>2</sup> Fiber broadband projects funded by federal government investments—and additional, state and local government and private investments—will serve wireless towers, data centers, healthcare, agriculture, education, transportation, and government projects that drive America's economic growth and competitiveness.

PCCA's contractor members patiently waited through years of BEAD program delays that effectively froze a significant portion of public and private sector investments in fiber installation projects as stakeholders awaited clarity on federal and state/local government funding.<sup>3</sup> Currently, PCCA members are preparing to deliver vital connectivity to rural and underserved American communities and drive economic prosperity for all through the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairmen-guthrie-and-hudson-announce-hearing-on-streamlining-broadband-permitting>

<sup>2</sup> <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program>

<sup>3</sup> Section 60102 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58), enacted in late 2021, established the BEAD program and appropriated the \$42.45 billion investment in BEAD. See CRS Report R48666, 8/29/25: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48666>

BEAD program and other infrastructure investments from stakeholders, but they cannot afford additional needless delays caused by the broken environmental permitting process.

PCCA builders, suppliers, and other stakeholders have long-standing concerns that outdated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations<sup>4</sup> needlessly delay and increase the cost of critical infrastructure projects. Reforming and modernizing NEPA procedures while maintaining environmental protections will reduce costly delays and uncertainties facing PCCA members, their customers, and the public.

PCCA supports NEPA's goals to better inform federal decision-making and the public's understanding of significant environmental impacts. However, the current permitting process is broken and has become overly complex, slow, burdensome, and subject to lengthy and contested litigation, often delaying critical projects without yielding corresponding benefits.

According to recent feedback shared by PCCA member contractors, NEPA exposes simple broadband infrastructure projects, like microtrenching, boring, and plowing for fiber cable installation, to significant red tape and unexpected delays of months or even years requiring multiple federal agency reviews.

In the construction industry, time is money. When contractors bid on jobs, they provide a price to the customer based on a reasonable project timeline that accounts for labor, materials, and general conditions. Unfortunately, NEPA frequently and unexpectedly delays projects after contracts have been bid on and awarded to contractors. This creates uncertainty for contractors, material suppliers and their workforce, as well as their customers. Contractors must figure out how to efficiently manage idle project materials, equipment, and labor allocated for a project during NEPA delays without a clear timeline for resolution. In addition, significant delays allow inflation and other factors to drive up materials and labor costs. This costs PCCA member contractor customers money, eats into contractor profits, and/or adds to project bottom-line costs shouldered by ratepayers, shareholders, and taxpayers.

A significant number of PCCA members are small businesses. This is consistent with the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy's findings that the construction industry has one of the highest concentrations of small businesses (82% of all construction firms have fewer than 10 employees) and industry workforce employment (more than 82% of the construction industry is employed by small businesses). In fact, construction companies that employ fewer than 100 construction professionals compose 99% of construction firms in the United States; they build 63% of U.S. construction, by value, and account for 68% of all construction industry employment.<sup>5</sup>

As discussed at a September 4 SBA Office of Advocacy roundtable<sup>6</sup> concerning an ongoing Federal Communications Commission permitting reform rulemaking,<sup>7</sup> small businesses have a particularly difficult time overcoming financial, materials, and labor problems caused by NEPA delays that hurt their profitability and operations. Likewise, larger contractors in this space often rely on a healthy subcontractor base. Improving the

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2025-15818/p-17>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2019 County Business Patterns: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=CBP2019.CB1900CBP&n=23&tid=CBP2019.CB1900CBP&hidePreview=true> and <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/tables.2019.html>. See also 2020 Small Business Profile, U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy (2020), at page 3, <https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/04144224/2020-Small-Business-Economic-ProfileUS.pdf>. See also U.S. Census County Business Patterns by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size Class for the U.S., States and Selected Geographies: 2019, available at <https://thetruthaboutplas.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/07/Construction-firm-size-by-employment-2019-County-Business-Patterns-Updated071321.xlsx>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://advocacy.sba.gov/2025/08/21/fccs-modernization-of-national-environmental-policy-act-rules-roundtable-september-4-2025/>

<sup>7</sup> Modernizing the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act Rules, FCC WT Docket No. 25-217:

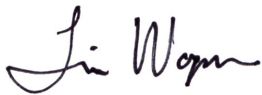
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/19/2025-15818/modernizing-the-commissions-national-environmental-policy-act-rules>.

NEPA process will increase transparency, reduce regulatory uncertainty, and ensure prompt decision-making to the benefit of small and large businesses. It will also create more high-paying jobs for the men and women who build fiber and broadband connectivity on behalf of PCCA's corporate members.

PCCA appreciates the committee's efforts to review almost 30 bills addressing broadband permitting. We encourage you to review PCCA's recent comments submitted to the FCC<sup>8</sup> illuminating helpful permitting reforms for additional solutions and analysis recommended by industry.

PCCA looks forward to working with the committee and industry stakeholders to enact regulatory reforms and sensible policies to deliver quality broadband infrastructure projects to America. Please contact Ben Brubeck at [bbrubeck@gasolutions.net](mailto:bbrubeck@gasolutions.net) if PCCA can serve as a resource to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Wagner" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Wagner  
President and CEO  
Power & Communication Contractors Association

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<sup>8</sup> [https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/results?q=\(proceedings.name:\(%2225-217%22\)\)&limit=100](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/results?q=(proceedings.name:(%2225-217%22))&limit=100).

September 17, 2025

Chairman Brett Guthrie  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2323 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Richard Hudson  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Doris Matsui  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
2323 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Hudson, and Ranking Member Matsui,

I write today to support commonsense efforts before the House Energy and Commerce Committee to address federal broadband permitting challenges, reduce regulatory red tape, and streamline and expedite rural broadband deployment efforts.

The existing federal permitting process takes too long, is too expensive, and is an impediment to the ability of broadband providers to meet the needs of their consumers and communities. Today, more than 200 rural electric cooperatives are involved in broadband deployment efforts, however many face challenges and duplicative reviews when installing fiber for both utility and retail purposes on existing infrastructure and within existing rights of way or easements. The permitting process becomes more complicated and costly when multiple federal agencies are involved, and lengthy reviews coupled with unclear timelines and administrative burdens only add to the challenges and frustrations of dealing with federal compliance.

On behalf of America's Electric Cooperatives, I want to thank you for the thoughtful consideration of the permitting challenges facing rural internet service providers and commonsense efforts to streamline broadband infrastructure deployment across the United States. Many of the permitting proposals before the Committee will alleviate the need for duplicative reviews and expedite broadband deployment, especially for projects crossing federally managed lands. Other proposals aim to add predictability and certainty to the federal permit application review timeline and will help broadband providers meet project milestones and bring long overdue service to rural communities.

Rural electric cooperatives are deeply committed to bridging the digital divide and connecting rural homes and businesses with reliable broadband service. I appreciate the Committee's attention to this important and timely issue and look forward to working with this Committee and others in Congress to streamline the broadband permitting process and close the digital divide once and for all.

Sincerely,



Jim Matheson  
CEO



[Politics](#)

# FCC Chair Carr says ‘we’re not done yet’ after Jimmy Kimmel suspension by ABC

PUBLISHED THU, SEP 18 2025 9:53 AM EDT | UPDATED THU, SEP 18 2025 3:35 PM EDT

[Dan Mangan](#)

## KEY POINTS

- **Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr told CNBC that ABC late-night show host Jimmy Kimmel appeared to “mislead” the American public about facts regarding Charlie Kirk’s killing in the days leading up to his show’s suspension.**
- **ABC on Wednesday said it was pulling “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” off the air “indefinitely.”**

[Federal Communications Commission](#) Chairman [Brendan Carr](#) said Thursday that ABC late-night host [Jimmy Kimmel](#) appeared to “mislead” the American public about facts regarding conservative activist [Charlie Kirk](#)’s killing in the days leading up to his show’s suspension.

Carr also told CNBC’s “[Squawk on the Street](#)” that “we’re not done yet” with the changes in “the media ecosystem” that are consequences of President [Donald Trump](#)’s election last fall.

ABC on Wednesday night said it was pulling “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” off the air “indefinitely” because of the host’s comments, which linked Kirk’s alleged killer, Tyler Robinson, to Trump’s “Make America Great Again” movement.

“The issue that arose here, where lots and lots of people were upset, was not a joke,” Carr said Thursday on CNBC.

“It was not making fun,” said Carr, who hours before Kimmel’s show was pulled off the air suggested the FCC might take action against ABC and its parent company, [Disney](#)

“It was appearing to directly mislead the American public about a significant fact that probably one of the most significant political events we’ve had in a long time, for the most significant political assassination we’ve seen in a long time,” he said.

[Utah court documents](#) filed Tuesday in connection with the murder charge against Robinson say his mother told investigators, “Over the last year or so, her son had become more political and had started to lean more to the left, becoming more pro gay and trans-rights oriented.”

Those documents also say that when Robinson was asked why he killed Kirk, “Robinson explained there is too much evil, and [Kirk] spreads too much hate.”

A day before those documents were filed, Kimmel, in his show’s [opening monologue Monday](#), said, “The MAGA Gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.”



Trump on Wednesday evening praised Kimmel's suspension and called on NBC to cancel its own late-night shows, "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," and "Late Night with Seth Meyers."

"Squawk on the Street" anchor Carl Quintanilla asked Carr about that on Thursday.

"I asked earlier about Fallon and Seth Meyers, but is the president's view that they should also be taken off the air, shared by the FCC?" Quintanilla asked.

Carr replied, "I don't speak for the president."

"Our goal and our obligation here is to make sure that broadcasters are serving the public interest," Carr said.



**Brendan Carr, commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), speaks during the Semafor Innovating to Restore Trust in News Summit in Washington, DC, US, on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.**

*Kent Nishimura | Bloomberg | Getty Images*

"And if there's local TV stations that don't think that running that programming does it, then they have every right under the law in their contracts to preempt it. And we'll see how this plays out."

"I do think that again, we are in the midst of a massive shift in dynamics in the media ecosystem for lots of reasons, again, including the permission structure that President Trump's election has provided," the FCC chief said.

"And I would simply say we're not done yet with seeing the consequences of that," he said.

CNBC anchor David Faber followed up on that.

"What does that mean when you say you're not done yet?" Faber asked. "Then, I mean, will you only be pleased when none of these comedians have a show on broadcast television?"

Carr replied, “No, it’s not any particular show or any particular person. It’s just we’re in the midst of a very disruptive moment right now, and I just, frankly, expect that we’re going to continue to see changes in the media ecosystem.”

Asked by anchor Jim Cramer if the U.S. government should “have someone who reviews the writers before the host says something,” Carr said, “No.”

Speaking in England on Thursday, Trump said Kimmel “said a horrible thing about a great gentleman known as Charlie Kirk, and Jimmy Kimmel is not a talented person.”

“He had very bad ratings, and they should have fired him a long time ago. So, you know, you can call that free speech or not,” Trump said. “He was fired for lack of talent.”

Kimmel has not been fired.



**“Jimmy Kimmel Live!” airs every weeknight at 11:35 p.m. ET and features a diverse lineup of guests that include celebrities, athletes, musical acts, comedians and human interest subjects, along with comedy bits and a house band.**

*Randy Holmes | Disney General Entertainment Content | Getty Images*

The president nominated Carr as FCC chair.

On Wednesday, before ABC yanked Kimmel’s show, Carr called Kimmel’s comments “truly sick” and said there was a “strong case” for action against ABC and Disney.

“This is a very, very serious issue right now for Disney. We can do this the easy way or the hard way,” Carr told right-wing commentator Benny Johnson that day. “These companies can find ways to take action on Kimmel, or there is going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.”

“They have a license granted by us at the FCC, and that comes with it an obligation to operate in the public interest,” Carr said.

Hours after Carr's comments were reported by Johnson, [Nexstar Media Group](#) said its [stations that are affiliated with ABC](#) would preempt Kimmel's show "for the foreseeable future" because of Kimmel's remarks.

Nexstar is seeking regulatory approval from the FCC for its planned [\\$6.2 billion merger](#) with [Tegna](#). About 10% of ABC affiliates are owned by Nexstar.

House Democratic leaders on Thursday called for Carr's resignation, alleging that he had engaged "in the corrupt abuse of power."

In a statement, the Democrats accused the FCC chairman of "bullying ABC, the employer of Jimmy Kimmel, and forcing the company to bend the knee to the Trump administration."

Former President [Barack Obama](#), in [a post on X](#) on Thursday, said, "After years of complaining about cancel culture, the current administration has taken it to a new and dangerous level by routinely threatening regulatory action against media companies unless they muzzle or fire reporters and commentators it doesn't like."

"This is precisely the kind of government coercion that the First Amendment was designed to prevent — and media companies need to start standing up rather than capitulating to it," Obama wrote.

*Comcast is the parent company of NBCUniversal, which owns CNBC. Versant would become the new parent company of CNBC under a planned spinoff.*

*Correction: This article has been updated to correct a quote from David Faber. A previous version inadvertently omitted a word.*



September 16, 2025

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2110 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Griffith:

On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA), I am writing to express opposition to H.R. 278, the BROADBAND Leadership Act.

APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. Public power utilities are in every state except Hawaii. They collectively serve over 55 million people in 49 states and five U.S. territories and account for 15 percent of all sales of electric energy (kilowatt-hours) to end-use consumers.

As drafted, H.R. 278 would expand federal control over public power utility infrastructure with serious safety implications and no guarantee that any “savings” would be passed onto customers. Public power utilities strongly support the goal of increasing broadband deployment. However, we do not believe that this legislation will accomplish that goal. Section 224 of the Communications Act explicitly exempts public power utilities (and rural electric cooperatives) from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversight of pole attachments given that oversight is already provided at the local level. Cable and telecommunications companies have long worked to convince the FCC and Congress that the municipal exemption from FCC oversight of pole attachment rates and regulations should be eliminated. With no evidence, they claim that local control over rates and regulations are major barriers to broadband deployment.

As community-owned, not-for-profit entities, public power utilities have no incentive to prevent their own customers from getting access to broadband services. The only reason we would deny a communications attacher’s access to poles is on safety grounds. APPA would be happy to connect you with public power utilities in Virginia to give you more information on how they handle pole attachment requests at your convenience.

Again, public power utilities strongly support broadband expansion, but we do not believe that this bill will accomplish that goal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmarie M. Waterhouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Desmarie M. Waterhouse  
Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Communications and General Counsel

# Trump floats pulling licenses if networks are ‘against’ him after Jimmy Kimmel suspended

PUBLISHED THU, SEP 18 2025 2:46 PM EDT | UPDATED THU, SEP 18 2025 4:01 PM EDT

[Dan Mangan](#)

## KEY POINTS

- President Donald Trump suggested that the federal government might revoke the licenses of broadcast television networks that are “against” him.
- Trump’s comment came a day after ABC suspended airing the “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” show because of comments its host made linking the alleged killer of Charlie Kirk to Trump’s MAGA movement.
- Trump said it would be up to FCC Chairman Brendan Carr to decide whether to cancel networks’ licences.



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One on his way to a state visit in Britain, Sept. 16, 2025.

*Kevin Lamarque | Reuters*



President [Donald Trump](#) on Thursday suggested that the federal government might revoke the licenses of broadcast television networks that are “against” him.

Trump’s comment came a day after ABC suspended airing the “[Jimmy Kimmel](#) Live!” show because of comments its host made linking the alleged killer of conservative activist [Charlie Kirk](#) to Trump’s MAGA movement.

[Federal Communications Commission](#) Chairman [Brendan Carr](#) earlier on Wednesday had hinted that the broadcast license of ABC — which is a subsidiary of [Disney](#) — was at risk if it did not “take action on Kimmel.”

Speaking on Thursday to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said, “I have read someplace that the networks were 97% against me, again, 97% negative, and yet I won and easily, all seven swing states,” referring to his 2024 election win.

“They give me only bad publicity, press. I mean, they’re getting a license,” Trump said, according to audio from a press gaggle provided by the White House.

“I would think maybe their license should be taken away,” Trump said.

The president said that the decision “will be up to Brendan Carr.”

Trump specifically referred to criticism he has gotten from Kimmel and CBS late-night talk-show host Stephen Colbert.

“Look, that’s something that should be talked about for licensing, too,” Trump said.

“When you have a network and you have evening shows, and all they do is hit Trump,” he said.

“That’s all they do. If you go back, I guess they haven’t had a conservative on in years or something, somebody said.”

“But when you go back, take a look, all they do is hit Trump. They’re licensed. They’re not allowed to do that. They’re an arm of the Democrat party,” he said.

Carr earlier Thursday told CNBC’s “Squawk on the Street” that “we’re not done yet” with changes in “the media ecosystem” that are consequences of Trump’s election.

“I think Brendan Carr is outstanding, he’s a patriot,” said Trump, who nominated Carr to his position.

“He loves our country, and he’s a tough guy. So we’ll have to see.”

Broadcast television stations affiliated with networks, including ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox, must receive a license from the FCC to operate because their content is transmitted over the air, and is technically free for viewers as long as they have an antenna.

That contrasts with cable TV networks, whose subscribers pay fees to distributors to watch.

— *CNBC’s [Lillian Rizzo](#) contributed to this story.*

*Disclosure: Comcast is the parent company of NBCUniversal, which owns CNBC. Versant would become the new parent company of CNBC upon Comcast’s planned spinoff of Versant.*

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 1, 2023

Rupert Murdoch  
Chairman  
Fox Corporation  
1211 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
New York, NY 10036

Suzanne Scott  
CEO  
FOX News Media  
1211 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
New York, NY 10036

Lachlan K. Murdoch  
Executive Chairman and CEO  
Fox Corporation  
1211 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
New York, NY 10036

Jay Wallace  
President and Executive Editor  
FOX News Media  
1211 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Rupert Murdoch et al:

As noted in your deposition released yesterday, Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, and other Fox News personalities knowingly, repeatedly, and dangerously endorsed and promoted the Big Lie that Donald Trump won the 2020 presidential election. Though you have acknowledged your regret in allowing this grave propaganda to take place, your network hosts continue to promote, spew, and perpetuate election conspiracy theories to this day.

The leadership of your company was aware of the dangers of broadcasting these outlandish claims. By your own account, Donald Trump's election lies were "damaging" and "really crazy stuff." Despite that shocking admission, Fox News hosts have continued to peddle election denialism to the American people.

This sets a dangerous precedent that ignores basic journalistic fact-checking principles and public accountability. This is even more alarming after Speaker McCarthy is reportedly allowing Tucker Carlson to review highly sensitive security camera footage of the events surrounding the violent January 6 insurrection.

We demand that you direct Tucker Carlson and other hosts on your network to stop spreading false election narratives and admit on the air that they were wrong to engage in such negligent behavior.

As evidenced by the January 6 insurrection, spreading this false propaganda could not only embolden supporters of the Big Lie to engage in further acts of political violence, but also deeply and broadly weakens faith in our democracy and hurts our country in countless other ways.



Fox News executives and all other hosts on your network have a clear choice. You can continue a pattern of lying to your viewers and risking democracy or move beyond this damaging chapter in your company's history by siding with the truth and reporting the facts. We ask that you make sure Fox News ceases disseminating the Big Lie and other election conspiracy theories on your network.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate



Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives



[Tech](#)

## Democrats ask cable and streaming providers about their role in spreading misinformation ahead of Capitol riot

PUBLISHED MON, FEB 22 2021 10:56 AM EST | UPDATED MON, FEB 22 2021 5:32 PM EST

[Lauren Feiner](#)

### KEY POINTS

- **Two Democratic lawmakers sent letters to several cable and streaming providers Monday, urging executives to address misinformation on their services from channels such as Fox News, OANN and Newsmax.**
- **Reps. Anna Eshoo and Jerry McNerney, both of California, asked the providers how they determine whether to carry a channel and how they tried to manage the spread of disinformation and incitement of violence before the Jan. 6 insurrection.**



**Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., speaks during a rally in the Capitol Building to call on the Senate to vote on House Democrats' prescription drugs and health care package on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.**

*Tom Williams | CQ-Roll Call, Inc. | Getty Images*

Lawmakers are looking beyond the social media companies when it comes to cracking down on misinformation.

Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Jerry McNerney, D-Calif., sent [letters](#) to top executives at [AT&T](#), [Verizon](#), [Roku](#), [Amazon](#), [Apple](#), [Comcast](#), [Charter](#), [Dish](#), Cox, [Altice](#), [Google parent Alphabet](#), and [Disney-owned Hulu](#)

on Monday, urging them to address misinformation on their services. They linked disinformation and conspiracy theories to the radicalization of people who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 as lawmakers moved to affirm President Joe Biden's victory.

"Misinformation on TV has led to our current polluted information environment that radicalizes individuals to commit seditious acts and rejects public health best practices, among other issues in our public discourse," the lawmakers wrote in the letters.

Eshoo and McNerney asked the providers how they determine whether to carry a channel and how they attempted to manage the spread of disinformation and incitement of violence between the 2020 election and Jan. 6 insurrection. Eshoo and McNerney identified Fox News, Newsmax and One America News Network as channels that aired misinformation in the lead-up to the riot and that have spread false information about Covid-19.

The lawmakers also asked the companies if they planned to continue carrying the channels and why.

The letters show that lawmakers are still looking to hold traditional information sources accountable while they grill executives from newer platforms such as [Facebook](#)

and [Twitter](#)

over their roles in amplifying lies. The letters come ahead of a hearing Wednesday, "Fanning the Flames: Disinformation and Extremism in the Media," hosted by a subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on which both Eshoo and McNerney sit.

"As the most watched cable news channel throughout 2020, FOX News Media provided millions of Americans with in-depth reporting, breaking news coverage and clear opinion," the company said in a statement. "For individual members of Congress to highlight political speech they do not like and demand cable distributors engage in viewpoint discrimination sets a terrible precedent."

Representatives for the other companies named in this article did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the letters. Comcast declined to comment.

Republicans quickly pushed back on the two Democrats, with Republican Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr calling it a "chilling transgression of the free speech rights that every media outlet in this country enjoys." Carr's fellow Republican Commissioner Nathan Simington echoed the same sentiment in a later statement.

A Republican aide for the House Energy and Commerce Committee said in a statement, "The Majority is flirting with violating the First Amendment. Should the government be pressuring private industries to censor legally protected content and suppress the freedom of the press? No. If a free and independent press is still valued and mainstream in America, this censorship campaign should alarm every single journalist and member of the media."

*Disclosure: Comcast is the owner of NBCUniversal, parent company of CNBC.*