



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee On Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva,

I write to you today on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) in support of H.R. 4141, which would provide, among other things, that certain communications projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews in connection with obtaining broadband deployment permits.

NTCA members continue to help close our nation’s digital divide by deploying broadband in the hardest-to-serve parts of rural America. This gives them a unique perspective on permitting as they work to connect new customers and upgrade networks used to serve existing customers. It also provides them with a substantial interest in finding ways to improve and expedite permitting procedures where possible. Against this backdrop, we have consistently encouraged Congress to help address permitting delays by moving forward with streamlining measures. We must ensure our country’s broadband availability and affordability goals are not undermined by inefficient or ineffective local, state, and federal processes to obtain permits for network deployment.

H.R. 4141 contains proactive measures aimed at streamlining permitting and helping deliver on universal broadband connectivity. As federally funded broadband deployment ramps up even further in the coming years, it is imperative that permitting reform for wired and wireless networks alike be at the forefront of this discussion. We encourage Congress to help address such concerns by moving forward with streamlining measures like H.R. 4141.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bloomfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bloomfield

CEO, NTCA- The Rural Broadband Association