



The Voice of America's Broadband Providers

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*** * * PRESS STATEMENT * * ***

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA - The Voice of America's Broadband Providers and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“ITTA has long urged Congress to appropriate additional federal money for the advancement of broadband in rural America. The 2018 Farm Bill Conference Report, through its changes to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Program, rightfully recognizes the importance and value of building strong, robust broadband networks in rural America.”

“While the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Report takes some positive steps towards improving rural broadband deployment, ITTA remains troubled that the Report would allow for the use of RUS funds to overbuild existing providers receiving federal support from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) universal service program. While ITTA is encouraged that Congress added language calling for consultation between RUS and the FCC, it is imperative that Congress exercise its oversight of the RUS Broadband Loan Program to ensure that wasteful overbuilding does not occur.”

“ITTA looks forward to working with Congress, RUS, the FCC, and all other industry stakeholders to make ubiquitous broadband a reality for all Americans living in rural America.”

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ITTA represents communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless broadband, voice, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across the United States. For more information, please visit www.itta.us.