



*The Voice of America's Broadband Providers*

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications  
722 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Schatz and Members of the Subcommittee:

ITTA is encouraged by public comments made by President Trump in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 21, 2017 that broadband will be included in the President's infrastructure proposal to "enhance broadband access for rural America." Further, ITTA continues to support your efforts, Chairman Wicker, to ensure that Congress follows through by including a broadband title in any infrastructure legislation.

ITTA members are committed to serving their rural customers with high-speed broadband. Thanks to the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the reforms the agency made to the Universal Service Fund's ("USF") High-Cost program, rural Americans are beginning to reap the benefits of broadband. However, the job is not done. As you know, technology and the appetite for more broadband continues to increase daily, which is why the USF is so important to meet the broadband demands of rural America and to ensure rural America remains competitive in the global economy.

It is for this reason that ITTA encourages Congress to ensure that any new broadband investment program meets the goal of delivering high-speed broadband to rural America. The federal USF is a time-tested and proven federal program to accomplish this goal. As Chairman Pai<sup>1</sup> and Commissioner O'Reilly<sup>2</sup> have both noted, the federal universal service fund is a logical

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<sup>1</sup> Pai, Ajit, "Bringing The Benefits Of The Digital Age To All Americans" Speech, Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, March 5, 2017, [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-343903A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-343903A1.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> O'Reilly, Mike "Federal Broadband Infrastructure Spending: Potential Pitfalls," *FCC Blog*, February 1, 2017, <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2017/02/01/federal-broadband-infrastructure-spending-potential-pitfalls>.

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Ranking Member Brian Schatz  
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place to direct any federal broadband infrastructure dollars. The FCC has the experience and expertise to oversee expanded broadband deployment in rural America and has an impressive track-record in reducing wasteful spending within the USF. In addition, the FCC has the administrative ability to put taxpayer dollars to use immediately and restore accountability for federal broadband funding.

The ITTA membership looks forward to working with you and members of your Subcommittee to improve broadband access for all Americans.

If you should have any questions, please contact Paul Raak, ITTA's Vice President of Legislative Affairs, at 202.898.1514 or by email at [praak@itta.us](mailto:praak@itta.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Genevieve Morelli".

Genevieve Morelli  
President  
ITTA - the Voice of America's Broadband Providers

cc: Members of the Subcommittee



*The Voice of America's Broadband Providers*

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications & Technology  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications & Technology  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Member Doyle and Members of the Subcommittee:

ITTA is encouraged by public comments made by President Trump in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on June 21, 2017 that broadband would be included in the President's infrastructure proposal to "enhance broadband access for rural America." Further, ITTA continues to support your efforts, Chairman Blackburn, to ensure that Congress follows through by including a broadband title in any infrastructure legislation.

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<https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2017/02/01/federal-broadband-infrastructure-spending-potential-pitfalls>.

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President  
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cc: Members of the Subcommittee