

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for Competition and Choice in Broadband Implementation

Dear Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, Chair Pallone, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

We, the undersigned organizations, write today to urge you to use the oversight authority of your committees to direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to develop the most practical, economically sound rules for broadband deployment. Technology neutrality should be the core principle driving this rulemaking.

The most effective, cost-efficient way for the federal government to support state-level implementation of broadband deployment provisions included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is one that is technology neutral.

As you know, the NTIA is currently developing rules to guide the spending of \$48.2 billion for broadband deployment. We believe the most efficient and cost-effective way to use the public's money to close our nation's broadband divide is to develop rules that support flexibility and competition.

To this end, NTIA's rules should not pick technology winners and losers or impose a one-size-fits-all policy. Instead, we believe the rules should be technology neutral, allowing any type of technology that can deliver broadband to compete for state projects.

Topography and population densities of course vary greatly across the nation—and these differences require different solutions for internet connectivity. Fixed wireless and satellite technologies may make sense in one area, whereas fiber makes sense in another. Each state,

not the federal government, should have the freedom to decide what combination of technology best meets its needs.

It would be a grave mistake for NTIA policies to create regulatory restrictions that undermine the goal of expanding internet access to more Americans.

Our nation can expand economic opportunities and enable greater marketplace participation by connecting more of our populace to broadband. In past decades, connectivity by canal, rail, and road drove economic progress. Today, connecting to the internet is just as essential.

We urge you, as stewards of taxpayer dollars, to use the oversight authority of your committees to direct the NTIA to develop the most practical, economically sound rules for broadband deployment. Technology neutrality should be the core principle driving this rulemaking.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment

Steve Pociask
President/CEO
American Consumer Institute

Gerard Scimeca
Chairman
CASE

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Tom Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Katie McAuliffe
Executive Director
Digital Liberty

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

Tom Giovanetti
President
Institute for Policy Innovation

Brandon Arnold
Executive Vice President
National Taxpayers Union

Karen Kerrigan
President/CEO
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President
60 Plus Association

James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association