

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
CHAIRMAN

GREG WALDEN, OREGON  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

On March 23, 2020, S. 1822, the Broadband DATA Act, was signed into law by President Trump. This legislation requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish rules to collect broadband availability data to improve our nation's broadband coverage maps, but the law remains unfunded. Once this law is implemented and funded, FCC and other agencies will be able to rely on accurate broadband maps when they distribute federal funds for broadband deployment, which will lead to a more efficient use of federal dollars. As you are considering future appropriations bills, we urge you to fund this law fully.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, the availability of broadband service is a critical driver of the economy, distance learning, and telehealth services. Given the pivotal role that private communications networks serve in connecting Americans, we must ensure that the FCC has the tools it needs to facilitate efficiently the deployment of these networks. The FCC currently spends about \$8 billion dollars per year to support universal service of advanced telecommunications services, much of which supports broadband deployment to unserved areas.<sup>1</sup> Closing the digital divide and promoting broadband deployment have long been bipartisan priorities and funding the Broadband DATA Act will improve those efforts.


While we are focused on responding to the current health emergency and suppressing its reach, funding the Broadband DATA Act is vital to ensuring that all Americans are connected. With your leadership, we look forward to making that happen so that we can close the digital divide.

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<sup>1</sup> See, FY2021 Budget Request at pg. 31. Available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fy-2021-fcc-budget-estimate>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Viau or Kate O'Connor with the Minority Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.

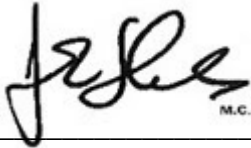
Sincerely,



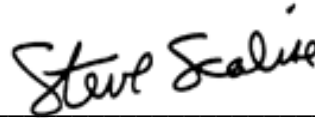
Greg Walden  
Republican Leader  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Robert E. Latta  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Communications and  
Technology



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



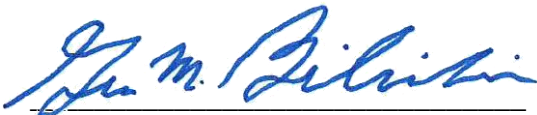
Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress




Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
June 10, 2020  
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Gianforte', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

cc: Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Michael F. Doyle, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology