

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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November 18, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael F. Doyle
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairmen Pallone and Doyle:

We write to follow up on the letter we sent to you on May 24th requesting that you hold a hearing to review the ongoing activities and programs of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). We have not yet received a response.

It has now been over one year since the FCC has appeared before the Energy and Commerce Committee.¹ Since then, Congress provided over \$10 billion to the agency to keep Americans connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.²

Due to the lack of oversight by this Committee, we have no information about how these programs are being implemented or if they are effective. Despite this lack of information, Democrats provided an additional \$25 billion to the FCC through their partisan American Rescue Plan and infrastructure packages and want to give the agency more funds in another partisan Reconciliation package. This is an unprecedented influx of funding for the FCC and not a responsible way to spend taxpayer dollars. We are concerned about the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse that may occur without proper oversight by this Committee.

¹ Hearing entitled, "Promises Made, Promises Kept: Connecting Americans for Future Generations." Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, held September 17, 2020. Available at: https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/calendar/?keywords=&subcommittees%5B%5D=communications-and-technology&subcommittees_operator=IN

² See, <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf>;
<https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ2/PLAW-117publ2.pdf>

Despite a historic delay in nominating a permanent FCC Chair, we are pleased that the Biden-Harris Administration has finally nominated candidates to fill the vacancies at this important agency. It is now even more crucial for you to invite them to testify before this Committee.

We request that you promptly schedule an FCC oversight hearing to review these and other issues within the FCC's jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Bob Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology