

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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January 12, 2022

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 request that you hold a hearing to review the ongoing activities and programs of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The NTIA has not appeared before the Energy and Commerce Committee since the 115th Congress. Given NTIA's role in spectrum management and administering unprecedented amounts of broadband funding, it is imperative that the NTIA Administrator appear before our Committee as soon as possible.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided over \$1.5 billion dollars in funding for three broadband pilot programs¹ and codified the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, which was recently established at the agency.² This office will be critical in tracking the construction, use of, and access to any broadband infrastructure built using federal support, and coordinating broadband funding programs across federal agencies to ensure federal funds are spent efficiently and in a non-duplicative manner. Given the new programs established across the federal government that provide hundreds of billions of dollars that can be used to support broadband access—including at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Federal Communications Commission—it is imperative that we understand how NTIA plans to track and coordinate these programs effectively.

¹ P.L. 116-260, Title IX, sections 902, 905

² See, <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2021/ntia-establishes-two-broadband-focused-offices>

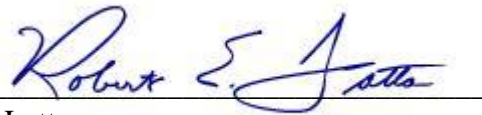
In addition, NTIA's role managing federal spectrum and representing U.S. interests abroad is as important now as ever. We continue to see spectrum disputes between federal agencies and commercial industry arise. These decisions will only become more difficult as we work to make the United States a leader in next-generation technologies. Congress tasked NTIA to establish a spectrum information technology modernization plan to improve these spectrum management activities, and we need to hear from the Biden Administration about its progress on implementation.³

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

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Bob Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology

³ Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, P.L. 116-260, Division H, Title XCII, Section 9203