



December 2, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write today to urge you to include critically needed investments in broadband in year-end legislation that will benefit your constituents—as well as Americans across the nation.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, America’s broadband, communications infrastructure, cloud, and application providers have kept our communities connected and provided tools to help us live remotely. Even as the global economy closed down, America’s internet has remained open, strong, and resilient, ensuring our nation and our families can continue to work, learn, and function.

Yet despite the progress we continue to make as a nation to achieve the goal of universal service, there remains several million Americans who lack access to broadband.

Congress has a unique and urgent opportunity to address the near-term broadband needs of millions of families and students. Time is critical. As schools and businesses close again, broadband service offers a lifeline to health services, continuing education, and skilling and employment opportunities. Therefore, as you finalize end of year legislation, we respectfully ask you to support funding for broadband service for families and students by extending the current CARES Act funding and ensuring that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has funding to develop accurate broadband maps. More specifically, in order to address the near-term crisis, we respectfully ask that you support the following:

**Funding for Broadband Adoption, Starting With Our Kids.** According to the 2018 American Community Survey, households with annual incomes below \$35,000 accounted for 60 percent of those without broadband. Funding is needed right away to ensure school children and families currently without broadband service can obtain a device and subscribe to broadband. This is especially needed now to empower households to respond to the educational, economic, social, and healthcare impacts created by COVID-19.

**Investment for Broadband Deployment.** Current CARES Act funding is being used by some states to deploy broadband, and clarifying the timeframe for such funding to be extended to complete those existing projects through 2021 should be a priority to continue to bridge the digital divide. Solutions for broadband connectivity for unserved homes, businesses, schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities can facilitate educational opportunities, keep citizens healthy and gainfully employed, and help us all to better weather the challenges of the pandemic.

**Funding for Accurate Broadband Mapping.** Our nation can more efficiently and cost-effectively address the broadband challenge with accurate data. The FCC has developed a new national methodology to improve broadband mapping, ensuring every federal broadband program dollar can be deployed as quickly as possible where it is needed most. But the FCC cannot get started without funding. So, time is of the essence. The FCC must have the funding now that it needs to implement its new methodology.

We recognize and applaud the strong bipartisan support for bringing the benefits of broadband to all Americans. Now we urge you to convert that support into action. If we are to effectively weather the challenges before us and restart our economy, it is critical that funding is provided to ensure that Americans in need have broadband service today, and the FCC is able to begin its work to develop more accurate maps now.

As we address the near terms challenges, there is still more work to do. In the longer-term, we ask that you ensure that all unserved Americans have a high-speed broadband connection to their home and have a permanent program that can help with affording a broadband service and device.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We stand ready to assist in whatever way we can.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chip Pickering

Chip Pickering  
CEO  
INCOMPAS

/s/ Jonathan Spalter

Jonathan Spalter  
President & CEO  
USTelecom – The Broadband Association

/s/ Gary Bolton

Gary Bolton  
President and CEO  
Fiber Broadband Association

/s/ Tom Quaadman

Tom Quaadman  
Executive Vice President  
U.S. Chamber Technology Engagement  
Center

/s/ Jack Alexander

Jack Alexander  
President  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America

/s/ Matt Schruers

Matt Schruers  
President  
Computer & Communications Industry  
Association

/s/ Claude Aiken

Claude Aiken  
President & CEO  
WISPA

/s/ Linda Moore

Linda Moore  
President and CEO  
TechNet

/s/ Richard T. Cullen

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Executive Director  
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/s/ Jonathan S. Adelstein

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WIA – the Wireless Infrastructure  
Association

/s/ Jon Berroya

Jon Berroya  
Interim President & CEO  
Internet Association

/s/ Michael K. Powell

Michael K. Powell  
President & CEO  
NCTA – The Internet & Television  
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