



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®

John Smaby
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Bob Goldberg
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ADVOCACY GROUP

William E. Malkasian
Chief Advocacy Officer/Senior Vice President

Shannon McGahn
Senior Vice President Government Affairs

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Phone 202-383-1194
WWW.NAR.REALTOR

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wicker and Klobuchar:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for supporting increased access to broadband for all Americans by introducing S. 1294, the Broadband Interagency Coordination Act. This legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enter into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate the distribution of federal funds for broadband deployment. Such an agreement would reduce overbuilding and ensure funds are targeted to unserved and underserved areas.

For REALTORS®, the business of real estate is increasingly conducted online. Streaming video, virtual tours, voice-over-internet-protocol, interactive transaction management systems and wireless smart phones are just some of the technologies that are commonly used by REALTORS® today. In the future, new technologies will be adopted that will only increase our members' reliance on the availability of fast, efficient and cost-effective access to broadband services.

NAR supports policies intended to encourage the growth of strong, viable communities. Communities prosper when they gain access to high-speed Internet; property values increase, businesses grow and job creation flourishes. In fact, a U.S. Department of Commerce study concluded that high speed internet access increases property values by 6%.

Broadband forms the infrastructure for America's economic and digital future. Affordable high-speed broadband will soon become as essential as water and electricity, and the absence of broadband makes a community a less attractive destination for new investment and development.

REALTORS® appreciate your work on the crucial issue of improving access to quality broadband and supports passage of this important bill. NAR looks forward to working with you to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

John Smaby
2019 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



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