

May 11, 2020

Vince Malta
2020 President

Bob Goldberg
Chief Executive Officer

ADVOCACY GROUP

William E. Malkasian
Chief Advocacy Officer / SVP

Shannon McGahn
SVP Government Affairs

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clyburn:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I am writing to extend our appreciation of your efforts to make broadband accessible and affordable to all Americans. We thank you for your leadership in Congress and for sharing our commitment to this issue.

The COVID-19 outbreak has created an unprecedented need for reliable and affordable high-speed Internet. At the same time, it has highlighted the fact that millions of Americans and businesses are without access, making remote work and schooling difficult, if not impossible. Like many other businesses, real estate is increasingly being 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.

REALTORS® support a comprehensive national policy to stimulate the deployment of broadband, increase data speeds and lower broadband prices, particularly in underserved areas of the U.S. Communities prosper when they gain access to high-speed Internet. Property values increase, businesses grow and jobs are created. Updating the National Broadband map will play a critical role in this process. With more precise data, federal agencies can target funding to areas that need it most. Due to your leadership, South Carolina has already made significant progress in this area and is one step closer to bridging the digital divide.

The Federal Communications Commission and the private sector have already taken a number of positive steps to increase access to broadband with the "Keeping Americans Connected" Initiative. This initiative provided a number of short-term solutions which have helped our communications networks handle increased demand.

Looking forward, NAR supports measures that will increase access to broadband capability for the entire United States. This national emergency has made clear that broadband services are no longer considered a luxury, but a



necessity for businesses and families alike. Again, we thank you for your leadership on this important issue and as always, are ready and willing to work with you on achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Malta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vince" being more prominent than the last name "Malta".

Vince Malta
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®