

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 Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), and 75 million property owners, I am writing to express our support for increased investment in broadband infrastructure and services.

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.

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.

NAR supports access to broadband capability for the entire United States. The COVID-19 outbreak has made clear that broadband services are



no longer considered a luxury, but a necessity for businesses and families alike. As you continue your work to craft legislation responding to this national emergency, we urge you to support policies that ensure everyone has broadband internet — especially at a time when our communication tools have never been more critical. As always, NAR stands 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®

cc: United States House of Representatives
United States Senate