

**Charlie Oppler**

2021 President

**Bob Goldberg**

Chief Executive Officer

**ADVOCACY GROUP**

**Shannon McGahn**

Chief Advocacy Officer

**February 17, 2021**

The Honorable Michael Doyle  
Chairman  
House Communications &  
Technology Subcommittee  
270 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Latta  
Ranking Member  
House Communications &  
Technology Subcommittee  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Doyle and Ranking Member Latta:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I extend our appreciation of your efforts to highlight broadband accessibility issues at your upcoming hearing, "Connecting America: Broadband Solutions to Pandemic Problems." We thank you for your leadership in Congress and for sharing our commitment to this issue.

The COVID-19 pandemic 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. 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, communities have greater access to quality education and jobs are created. 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.

Last year NAR supported additional funding for broadband infrastructure and services in the COVID-19 relief bills as well as supported several pieces of legislation including the "Broadband Interagency Coordination Act," the "Rural Broadband Acceleration Act" and the "Accelerating Broadband Connectivity Act." We were also encouraged with a number of positive steps taken by the Federal Communications Commission and the private sector to help our communications networks handle increased demand. We hope to build and expand on these efforts in the months to come.



Looking forward, NAR will continue to support 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 "Charlie Oppler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Oppler  
2021 President, National Association of REALTORS®