

March 20, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chair
House Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Latta, and Ranking Member Matsui:

On behalf of the more than 1.5 million members of the National Association of REALTORS®, thank you for holding the hearing, “Breaking Barriers: Streamlining Permitting to Expedite Broadband Deployment.” Improving our nation’s broadband network so Americans everywhere have reliable access to it is an important issue for REALTORS®, and we appreciate your leadership in Congress and for sharing our commitment to this issue.


The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented need for reliable and affordable high-speed internet. At the same time, it 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.

NAR supports policies which will increase access for Americans everywhere to an affordable, high-speed, world-class communications infrastructure. We were encouraged with the recent positive steps taken by the Federal Communications

Commission and the private sector to help our communications networks handle increased demand for broadband. We hope to build and expand upon 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. 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,



Kenny Parcell
2023 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology