

**June 15, 2021**

**Charlie Oppler**  
2021 President

**Bob Goldberg**  
Chief Executive Officer

**ADVOCACY GROUP**

**Shannon McGahn**  
Chief Advocacy Officer

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennet, King, and Portman:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), thank you for introducing the “Broadband Reform and Investment to Drive Growth in the Economy (BRIDGE) Act.” We appreciate your leadership in Congress and your commitment to expanding broadband access across the US.

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. 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, communities have greater access to quality education and jobs are created. Last year, NAR supported additional funding for broadband infrastructure and services in the COVID-19 relief bills and were encouraged by 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®