

ROBERT J. WITTMAN

1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER, SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TASK FORCE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
PUBLIC HEALTH CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
RURAL BROADBAND CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2020

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2055 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:

STAFFORD OFFICE
95 DUNN DRIVE SUITE 201
STAFFORD, VA 22556
(540) 659-2734

MECHANICSVILLE OFFICE
6501 MECHANICSVILLE TURNPIKE SUITE 102
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111
(804) 730-6595

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
P.O. Box 3106
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668

WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Broadband
Department of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Director Holmes:

I am writing in support of the King and Queen County FY 2021 Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant application to expand high-speed broadband service in King and Queen County through a partnership with Riverstreet. Approval of this application would help ease the mounting need to expand reliable broadband service to the county.

Rural Virginians know all-too-well the negative impact of internet insecurity. Reliable broadband is essential to an area's success, with tele-work, distance-learning, and telemedicine becoming increasingly necessary. Throughout the First Congressional District of Virginia, as in other rural areas of Virginia, economic incentives are needed to increase broadband access, and the VATI program has done an exceptional job of meeting that need. VATI encourages private telecommunications providers to enlarge their footprints and gives local governments the ability to design the expansion that makes the most sense for their communities.

King and Queen County has collaborated with Riverstreet to provide almost county-wide coverage. This application is key to providing reliable broadband access to the 1,328 homes funded by the VATI program. This application provides a solution that will meet the current needs of King and Queen County residents and businesses and provide stability and growth for decades to come.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the King and Queen County application. Moreover, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress