

**ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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

September 18, 2020

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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 Northern Neck Planning District Commission's (NNPDC) FY 2021 Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant application to provide a regional network that will provide gigabit-capable, fiber-to-the-home broadband to all currently unserved locations in the Counties of King George, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland. The four counties and the NNPDC have partnered with All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy Virginia, and the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative on this effort.

Earlier this year, All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative and the Counties of King George, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to advance a regional broadband partnership that aims to deliver fiber-optic broadband service to unserved households and businesses in Virginia's Northern Neck Region. Approval of this application would help meet a critical and mounting need to expand high-speed broadband service to the Northern Neck. Greater Broadband access to this region will provide greater educational opportunities for students and adult learners and cultivate better traction for business growth. The partners and counties of this application designed this project to be regional in scope and utilize state VATI grant funds to amplify local and private funding. This type of regional approach is crucial for the Governor's mission to provide state-wide connectivity in the coming years.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this VATI application. Moreover, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress