

**ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
**September 7, 2021**

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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 Caroline County FY 2022 Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant applications to expand high-speed broadband availability in the First Congressional District through a partnership with Comcast and Atlantic Broadband. Approval of this application would help meet the critical need to buildout high-speed broadband service to residents of Caroline County.

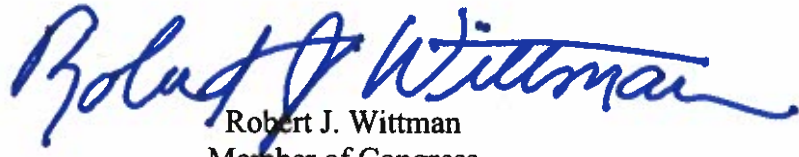
As we all know, broadband is now a necessity, not a luxury. With the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic causing a disruption to our daily lives, citizens need access to the internet now more than ever. I am proud to support the applications from Caroline County, and support the County's efforts to provide universal coverage to all its residents.

I appreciate the time and effort that Caroline County's leaders have devoted throughout the years to develop a plan to reach the entire county with broadband infrastructure in an effort to bridge the digital divide. Caroline County will greatly benefit from the broadband expansion outlined in the grant applications. Access to VATI grant funds will make it possible for Caroline residents to conduct business and access educational, telemedicine and economic development opportunities in a quickly changing environment.

With both Comcast and Atlantic Broadband as its partners, Caroline has devised an efficient and effective way to expand broadband access to over 4,500 homes that currently do not have an internet connection available. These are well-planned applications to finally bring an available broadband internet connection to everyone within the county. At times, our rural families have been overlooked.

Thank you for your consideration of the Caroline County applications. Moreover, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line across the middle.

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress