

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As our nation confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans are being asked to help prevent the spread of the virus by working from home, taking classes online, and utilizing telehealth services. These new realities have left millions of rural Americans who have little or no access to broadband feeling abandoned and desperately in need of help.

In order to address this emergency situation in which our constituents find themselves, we must leverage existing government rural broadband programs such as USDA's ReConnect Program and FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund with private sector expertise and resources.

As Congressional leadership negotiates upcoming emergency legislation regarding COVID-19, we strongly urge you to prioritize the expeditious delivery of broadband to rural areas to ensure students have access to remote educational services and residents have full access to telehealth services. Together we can ease the unfair burden that has been placed on rural Americans living in unserved and underserved areas, and prevent them from falling dangerously behind should the effects of COVID-19 continue in the long term.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress