

**ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Recently, in his State of the Union address, President Trump emphasized the need for legislation to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, which would include expanding broadband access to unserved populations of the country. I could not agree more with the president's comments. With that in mind, I am urging you to prioritize policies in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress that will help promote broadband investments and bridge the digital divide between urban and rural America.

As you know, the internet has forever altered how we live our lives and how businesses operate. Today, Americans rely upon the internet to carry out everyday tasks; whether balancing our checkbooks through online banking platforms or sending emails, access to broadband services has become essential.

Unfortunately, more than 23 million Americans still lack access to quality high speed internet services and therefore cannot experience the services that broadband provides, such as telemedicine, online education, and technology that is required of businesses to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. These services are uniquely critical to rural populations, where a smaller tax base and aging populations are putting a strain on education and healthcare services. The ability to provide distance learning technologies and telehealth services would not only help serve as innovative solutions to the challenge rural communities face, but also help level the playing field to retain and attract new businesses and talent.

With the coordination of Congress and the president, there is no greater time than now to help bring millions of Americans off the sidelines. As you move forward with addressing the needs of our nation's infrastructure, I believe it is paramount that broadband investments and policies that encourage them be included.

I look forward to working with you to expand broadband access to the unserved regions of America and help spur immense economic growth and bring greater prosperity to rural areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Wittman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress