



JONATHAN SPALTER  
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 18, 2019

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
SH-516  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
United States House of Representatives  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cortez Masto and Representative Tonko:

On behalf of USTelecom, thank you for introducing the ACCESS BROADBAND Act. USTelecom represents internet service providers (ISPs), suppliers, and manufacturers in every corner of the country. Our innovative members – large and small – connect communities through the promise of broadband and underpin the global digital economy. USTelecom and our member companies truly appreciate your leadership on broadband deployment issues.

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act is common-sense legislation that will streamline service providers' ability to access essential government resources to deploy broadband in rural America, while employing important safeguards to prevent overbuilding. The Act will create important efficiencies for service providers applying for support by introducing a single application format and creating a portal for providers to learn about potential funding opportunities. Importantly, creating the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth will ensure that our scarce federal broadband funding is targeted to those areas that are truly unserved, not used to duplicate existing progress. In sum, the Act will go a long way to promote accountability, bridge the digital divide, and bring much needed broadband to unserved areas. We thank you for your focus on this important issue.

USTelecom's members look forward to working with you on this bill and other issues of mutual importance, and I also hope you will not hesitate to contact me if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Spalter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jonathan Spalter