



October 09, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to urge your administration to oppose any effort to nationalize our country's growing 5G network infrastructure through Federal entry into the commercial market as currently contemplated by the Department of Defense.

Such an action would be at odds with more than a century of private sector led innovation and investment in communications networks, have a chilling effect on the entire broadband sector, and jeopardize American leadership in the global digital economy. Whether it is access to spectrum, fiber backhaul infrastructure, antennas and radios, or any other elements necessary to power resilient, secure and fast 5G networks – we will always be better off with private innovation and competition. That is the American way and why the United States is the undisputed global leader in communications.

Collectively, broadband providers, including those represented by the undersigned organizations, have invested trillions in private capital to build resilient, competitive and efficient networks that power our innovation economy and ensure millions of Americans benefit from broadband connectivity. The diversity of technologies and providers that make up our networks – fixed, wired, and wireless – provides unique services while promoting sustainable and secure connections.

The results of smart policies incentivizing market competition and private investment for American consumers and government agencies is clear: our networks continue to outperform foreign networks throughout the COVID pandemic. While centrally planned infrastructure and nationalized networks have struggled with congestion and poor service, American providers have met and exceeded the increased usage demands during COVID-19 while continuing to invest billions at a time when our economy needs it most.

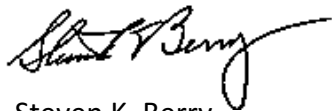
Even as our networks continue to perform admirably, with extra capacity to accommodate traffic demands, COVID-19 has emphasized the need to close the digital divide. Nationalized infrastructure will only create additional obstacles and challenges as we work to connect all

Americans, including those who are hardest to reach, with high-speed Internet service. It would also unnecessarily expose our infrastructure to greater security risks.

Policies supporting privately-led innovation rather than government controls and mandates are a time-tested model for American success and prosperity and will continue to spur the nation's connectivity providers to make important investments in the core infrastructure to deliver 5G connectivity.

We need to ensure that a competitive, free market remains and supports the private-sector deployment of 5G networks to ensure American networks continue to be the gold standard worldwide.

Sincerely,



Steven K. Berry
President & CEO
Competitive Carriers Association



Shirley Bloomfield
CEO
NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association



Meredith Attwell Baker
President and CEO
CTIA – The Wireless Association



Jonathan Spalter
President and CEO
USTelecom – The Broadband Association



Michael Powell
President and CEO
NCTA – The Internet and Telephone
Association



Jonathan S. Adelstein
President & CEO
The Wireless Infrastructure Association



Jim Matheson
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