

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2020

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

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

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

We write to request funds made available for state, local, territorial and tribal governments in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act be eligible for permanent broadband infrastructure construction and that Congress provides additional time for the buildout of new infrastructure.

A reliable high-speed internet connection is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. The buildout of broadband is especially critical right now to provide support to children learning from home or patients seeking telehealth care services. We must ensure states have the option to build future proof broadband infrastructure.

The CARES Act allocated \$150 billion for state and local governments to respond to the public health emergency caused by COVID-19. As part of this effort, states have been able to facilitate temporary internet access programs, enabling households to receive vitally important connectivity.

We also believe it is now necessary to give states flexibility to invest in permanent broadband solutions. This commonsense fix will enable states to more efficiently expand internet connectivity across our country, directly meeting the immediate needs caused by the continued COVID-19 public health emergency.

We therefore request that the upcoming relief bill provides additional time to spend Coronavirus Relief Funds as well as flexibility on what expenses are eligible to allow for more effective permanent broadband infrastructure construction.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you to ensure broadband connectivity across our communities.

Sincerely,



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



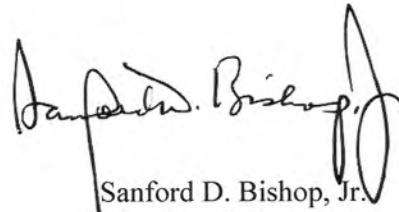
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



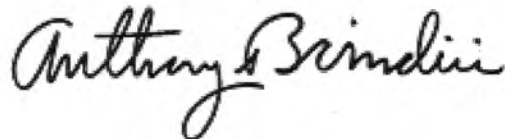
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



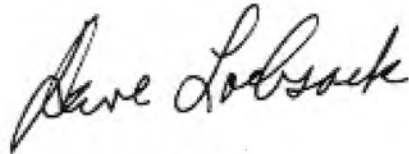
Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



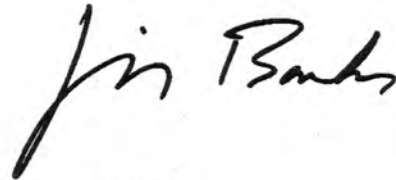
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



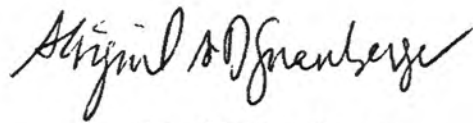
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio Delgado". The signature is more compact and stylized than the one on the left, with a prominent loop at the beginning.

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress