

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Received & Inspected

May 25, 2018

MAY 29 2018

FCC Mailroom

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 Twelfth Street SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to
Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84

Dear Chairman Pai:

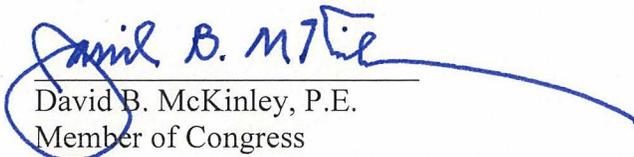
Access to high-speed broadband is essential to U.S. competitiveness, job creation, educational opportunity, and full participation in civic life. As such, we fully support Commission action to accelerate wireline broadband deployment to all Americans, particularly rural communities.

Recognizing that pole attachments can be a key input for many broadband deployment projects, the Commission is currently reviewing its pole attachment rules, including consideration of One-Touch Make-Ready (OTMR) proposals. One-Touch Make-Ready would allow companies seeking to add equipment to a utility pole to move the pre-existing equipment of telephone, cable, and utility companies already on the pole.

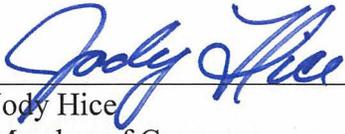
While we recognize that streamlining pole attachment make-ready processes can be beneficial, we urge the Commission to ensure that any make-ready policy that it adopts include safeguards that would minimize disruptions in service to consumers, protect public and worker safety, and honor collective bargaining agreements. Existing attachers are in the best position to reduce customer outages, and have the skilled, trained workforce to ensure that make-ready work is done properly and safely.

Moreover, as both unions and their employers acknowledge, concerns about delays are insufficient to justify impairment of the contractual obligations of existing attachers with collective bargaining agreements. Any Commission action on OTMR must respect those collective bargaining agreements while serving to protect and promote good, career jobs in communities across the United States.

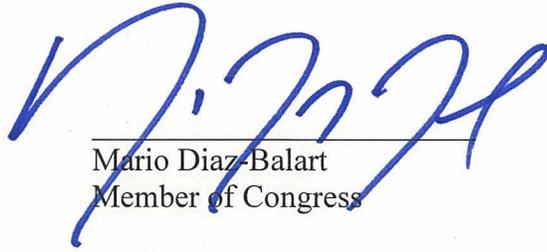
Sincerely,


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



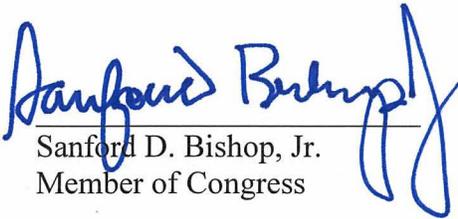
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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