

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

As the Federal Communication Commission (or Commission) implements relevant broadband provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (or Infrastructure Act), we write to urge the Commission to require Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to make the broadband consumer label, or “broadband nutrition” label, available in multiple languages.¹

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Act, the largest ever federal investment in broadband deployment and adoption—totaling approximately \$65 billion. The Infrastructure Act will help improve broadband internet access in rural areas and make internet service more affordable for low-income households. Admittedly, these investments are necessary — and timely — to connect every household in America as many of the internet-powered devices that became necessary throughout the pandemic continue to be a safe and viable must-have for millions of households across the household.

In addition, the Act directs the FCC “to promulgate regulations to require the display of broadband consumer labels, to disclose to consumers information regarding broadband Internet access service plans.”² As the demand for internet service — both fixed and mobile broadband services — grows, we must ensure Internet Service Providers (ISPs) make these “broadband nutrition” labels widely available in Spanish and Asian and Pacific Island (AAPI) languages such as Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Bengali, and other languages deemed necessary.

For instance, out of the 53 million Hispanic people living in the United States, or 17% of the population, more than 38 million people speak Spanish as a primary language at home.³ Moreover, Asian Americans are among the fastest growing ethnic population in the United States, estimated to reach 46 million by 2060.⁴ The nearly 22 million Asian Americans, represent over 48 different subethnicities that includes a diverse and rich spectrum of spoken languages and dialects. Multilingualism is embedded in the fabric of our rich history as a nation of migrants, and we must ensure initiatives like these under consideration at the Commission are not limited to English fluent consumers.

¹ Federal Communication Commission. “[Announces Tentative Agenda For January Open Meeting.](#)” Jan. 6, 2022.

² *Id*

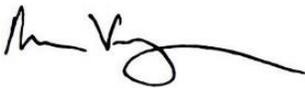
³ Kristina Temelkova. “[The Prevalence of the Spanish Language Within the US.](#)” Jan. 18, 2021.

⁴ Abby Budiman and Neil G. Ruiz. “[Key facts about Asian Americans, a Diverse and Growing Population.](#)” April 29, 2021.

The difficulty of determining the right internet plan can be a challenge, especially to those unfamiliar with terms such as “data usage,” “typical speed downstream/upstream,” and “latency” – terms included within the Commission’s latest version of these labels. That is why it is important now more than ever that we ensure these vital consumer-friendly labels leave no one feeling lost or uninformed because of a language barrier. We urge that the Commission require ISPs to make these labels available in multiple languages to ensure our diverse communities are equally informed about their internet options. These labels are intended to empower – not obscure – consumers as we work to ensure transparency about broadband services available in the marketplace.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



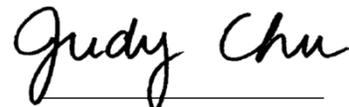
Tony Cárdenas
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jamie Raskin
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Adam Smith
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Darren Soto
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Marilyn Strickland
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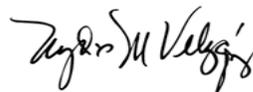
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