

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Donald J.  
Trump President of the  
United States The White  
House 1600 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW Washington, DC  
20500

The Honorable Charles  
Schumer Senate Minority  
Leader Hart Senate Office  
Building, 322 Washington,  
DC 20510

Dear Mr. President, Minority Leader Schumer & Congressional  
Leaders:

As you continue to work to provide relief to states being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to target aid toward broadband expansion in underserved areas of New York State. This pandemic has taught us many painful lessons. One is that New York State's broadband infrastructure is severely lacking in many areas and cannot meet the demands of millions of New Yorkers working and learning from home.

The federal CARES-Act included funding for broadband expansion. We are requesting New York receive a significant portion of this funding due to the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on New York compared to other states.

We also encourage you to release this money to New York State within the next 30 days to get these services expanded to rural areas as soon as possible. As identified

by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we are requesting funding from the following CARES-Act programs:

- \$25 million for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program to respond to coronavirus for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas;
- \$100 million for additional grants under the Rural Utilities Service Broadband Deployment Pilot Program;
- \$200 million for the FCC Connected Care Pilot Program, to address COVID-19 by using telehealth to connect with patients;
- \$45 million to expand FEMA information technology and communications capabilities; and
- \$9 million for CISA supply chain for impacted critical infrastructure coordination.

In addition, New York State was awarded \$170 million from the FCC in 2017 under the Connect America Fund for broadband expansion. To date, the State has received \$55.4 million of this funding. We request that the remaining \$114.6 million be accelerated and provided to New York by the end of the 2020 calendar year to be allocated to underserved areas, especially rural upstate New York.

New York has many underserved areas, especially in rural upstate, with workers and students working from home for the foreseen future. Due to Governor Cuomo's NY-Pause, broadband service is crucially needed more than ever. Members of the Assembly Republican Conference appreciate your tireless efforts during this troubling time. We thank you for your consideration and attention to this pressing matter.

Gratefully

,

Jake Ashby Will Barclay 107<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Assembly Minority  
Leader

Ken Blankenbush Ken Blankenbush Karl Brabenec 117<sup>th</sup> Assembly  
District 98<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Kevin Byrne Marjorie Byrnes 94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

Clifford W. Crouch Joe DeStefano 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

David DiPietro Gary D. Finch 147<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Michael Fitzpatrick Christopher S. Friend 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 124<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Andrew Garbarino Joseph M. Giglio 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 148<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Andy Goodell Steve Hawley 150<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mark Johns Brian M. Kolb 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 131<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Kieran Michael Lalor Peter Lawrence 105<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mike LiPetri Brian Manktelow 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Dave McDonough Brian Miller 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 101<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Melissa "Missy" Miller Michael Montesano 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Angelo Morinello Mike Norris 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 144<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Phil Palmesano Anthony Palumbo 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Ed Ra Mike Reilly 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

John Salka Colin Schmitt 121<sup>st</sup> Assembly District 99<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Doug Smith Robert Smullen 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Daniel Stec Chris Tague 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 102<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

District

Mary Beth Walsh

112<sup>th</sup> Assembly

District

cc: Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator

Honorable Lee Zeldin, Congressman  
Honorable Pete King, Congressman  
Honorable Thomas Suozzi, Congressman  
Honorable Kathleen Rice, Congresswoman  
Honorable Gregory Meeks, Congressman  
Honorable Grace Meng, Congresswoman  
Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Congresswoman  
Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Congressman  
Honorable Yvette Clarke, Congresswoman  
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Honorable Max Rose, Congressman  
Honorable Carolyn Mahoney, Congresswoman  
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Congresswoman  
Honorable Jose Serrano, Congressman  
Honorable Eliot Engel, Congressman  
Honorable Nita Lowey, Congresswoman  
Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney, Congressman  
Honorable Antonio Delgado, Congressman  
Honorable Paul Tonko, Congressman  
Honorable Elise Stefanik, Congresswoman  
Honorable Anthony Brindisi, Congressman  
Honorable Tom Reed, Congressman  
Honorable John Katko, Congressman  
Honorable Joseph Morelle, Congressman  
Honorable Brian Higgins, Congressman