

June 22, 2021

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

As Congress prepares to consider infrastructure legislation, the business community urges you to prioritize enhancing America's digital infrastructure and achieving the goal of connecting all Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how critical it is for Americans, especially healthcare providers, students, and government, to embrace digital tools. The internet has helped to keep the "digital lights" on for small business struggling during the pandemic.

The pandemic has highlighted gaps in America's digital infrastructure. Although private-sector networks led the world in connectivity during the height of the pandemic, the last year demonstrated a lack of access to high-speed connectivity. Government information technology systems that Americans relied on crashed because they were outdated and insufficient.

As Congress considers an infrastructure package, we urge you to take the following steps to modernize digital infrastructure:

- **Embrace Public-Private Partnerships to Deploy Broadband:** America's private sector has built one of the largest and most advanced communications infrastructures in the world. Congress should direct funding to build broadband networks to areas of the United States that lack access to broadband as defined by the FCC as 25Mbps/3 Mbps. America's connectivity strategy should embrace the private sector and avoid government-operated networks.
- **Address Connectivity Affordability the Right Way:** COVID-19 impacted millions of Americans' ability to pay for essential services. Congress has already taken temporary steps to help Americans pay for broadband through programs like the Emergency Broadband Benefit. To address long-term affordability, Congress should undertake steps to modernize existing programs like Lifeline as opposed to pricing and technology mandates.
- **Modernize Federal, State, and Local Government IT:** Government information technology is infrastructure. Unfortunately, too many government IT systems are woefully outdated and delay economic growth. For example, many states continue to rely on 1950s era technology to address 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges like COVID-19 and post-pandemic recovery. State government benefits systems crashed trying to deliver needed assistance during the pandemic. Similarly, agencies continue to use paper tracking for pandemic and vaccine tracking. Government must first and foremost modernize its own systems in collaboration with private-sector solutions.

Investing in digital infrastructure will enable the United States to better compete internationally, promote post-pandemic economic growth, and better prepare for emerging challenges.

Sincerely,

## **Alabama**

Coastal Alabama Business Chamber  
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce

## **Arizona**

Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce  
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Phoenix Chamber  
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce  
& Visitor Center  
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce  
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Prescott Chamber of Commerce  
Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Bureau  
Springerville-Eagar Regional Chamber of  
Commerce  
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Tucson Metro Chamber  
West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance  
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce

## **Arkansas**

Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce

## **California**

Armenian American Chamber of Commerce  
Bay Area Council  
Beaumont Community Chamber of Commerce  
CalChamber  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce  
Fremont Chamber of Commerce (CA)

Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Chambers Alliance  
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce  
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce  
La Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
La Verne Chamber of Commerce  
Lake County Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
National City Chamber of Commerce  
North Orange County Chamber  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Business Council  
Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic  
Association  
Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce  
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce  
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of  
Commerce  
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce  
San Mateo Chamber of Commerce  
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce  
The Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Vallejo Chamber of Commerce  
Valley Industry and Commerce Association  
(VICA)  
Vista Chamber of Commerce  
Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitor  
Bureau

## **Colorado**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
Basalt Chamber of Commerce

Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce  
Logan County Chamber of Commerce  
Steamboat Springs Chamber  
Superior Chamber of Commerce

### **Florida**

Lakeland Chamber of Commerce  
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce

### **Georgia**

Fayette Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

### **Hawaii**

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii  
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce

### **Iowa**

Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance  
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce  
Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce  
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce

### **Idaho**

Boise Metro Chamber

### **Illinois**

Chamber630  
GLMV Chamber of Commerce  
Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce &  
Industry  
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Indiana**

Aspire Johnson County  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Owen County Chamber of Commerce  
Westville Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Kansas**

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

### **Kentucky**

Commerce Lexington Inc.  
Grayson County Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Louisville Inc. - The Metro Chamber of  
Commerce  
Russell County Chamber of Commerce

### **Louisiana**

Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce  
Committee of 100 for Economic Development,  
Inc.  
Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce  
The Chamber Southwest Louisiana

### **Massachusetts**

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

### **Maryland**

Howard County Chamber  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Olney Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

### **Michigan**

Adrian Area and Tecumseh Area Chamber of  
Commerce  
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

### **Minnesota**

Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber  
Redwood Area Chamber & Tourism

### **Missouri**

Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce &  
CVB  
Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Montana**

Billings Chamber of Commerce  
Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

### **North Carolina**

McDowell Chamber of Commerce  
Moore County Chamber of Commerce

### **North Dakota**

Greater North Dakota Chamber

### **Nebraska**

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce  
Seward County Chamber & Development  
Partnership

### **New Jersey**

NJ State Chamber of Commerce

### **New Mexico**

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

### **Nevada**

Carson City Chamber of Commerce  
Laughlin Nevada Chamber of Commerce  
Mesquite NV Chamber of Commerce

Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce  
Vegas Chamber

### **New York**

Capital Region Chamber  
Corning Area Chamber of Commerce  
North Country Chamber of Commerce  
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce

### **Ohio**

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce  
Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance  
Trotwood Chamber of Commerce

### **Oklahoma**

Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce  
Poteau Chamber of Commerce  
Shawnee Forward  
The State Chamber of Oklahoma

### **Oregon**

Bandon Chamber of Commerce  
Bend Chamber of Commerce  
Boardman Chamber of Commerce  
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce  
Florence Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce  
Hillsboro Chamber  
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce  
Portland Business Alliance  
Oregon Business & Industry  
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce  
The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce  
The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County

### **Pennsylvania**

Beaver County Chamber of Commerce  
Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce

Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry  
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce  
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership  
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance  
Lancaster Chamber  
Main Line Chamber of Commerce  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Punxsutawney Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.  
South West Communities Chamber

### **Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce

### **South Carolina**

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce  
Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce

### **Texas**

Alamo Chamber of Commerce  
Austin Chamber of Commerce  
Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce  
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Houston Partnership  
Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
Odessa Chamber of Commerce  
Richardson Chamber of Commerce  
Rio Grande Valley Partnership  
Texas Association of Business  
Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Utah**

Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce

Davis Chamber of Commerce  
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce  
South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce  
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce  
Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce

### **Virginia**

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce  
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

### **Vermont**

Vermont Chamber of Commerce

### **Washington**

Association of Washington Business  
Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce  
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce  
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce  
Shelton-Mason County Chamber  
Silverdale Chamber of Commerce

### **Wyoming**

Evanston Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce