



BROADBAND TRANSPARENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET • CONGRESSWOMAN ABBY FINKENAUER

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

“The National Digital Inclusion Alliance fully supports the Broadband Accountability and Transparency Act of 2019. For the first time, the FCC would have a mandate to gather and make available consumer price data for home broadband service. The cost of home broadband service keeps millions of households from subscribing. The more data communities have on the real cost of home broadband service, the more targeted the solutions can be,” **said Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance.**

“The Broadband Accountability and Transparency Act of 2019 is the strongest bill yet seeking to ensure that the federal government collects accurate data about who in the US has access to broadband Internet access and who doesn’t. By, among other things, requiring broadband providers to report broadband deployment and other important data on an address-level and mandating that the FCC update its maps more often, make the data available to the public and establish a formal challenge and verification process, the Act will ensure that future broadband policymaking will be based on real world data, not guesswork. Senator Bennet and Representative Finkenauer should be commended for this thoughtful and comprehensive proposal to repair the FCC’s broken data collection process. Congress should pass this bill without delay,” **said Gigi Sohn, Distinguished Fellow, Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy and former Counselor to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.**

“The Broadband Transparency and Accountability Act of 2019 is an effective and comprehensive data collection bill. By requiring internet service providers to report more granular information on Form 477, including pricing and affordability, data caps, and service denials, the bill will enable the FCC to more accurately map where broadband is available and share relevant service information with consumers. This detailed information is essential for creating a relevant national broadband map, which both the FCC and Congress can use to craft effective broadband deployment policies. We applaud Sen. Bennet and Rep. Finkenauer for their leadership in promoting transparency and closing the digital divide,” **said Phillip Berenbroick, Policy Director, Public Knowledge.**

“The Broadband Transparency & Accountability Act is important legislation, as it will hold companies accountable for delivering the internet speeds that consumers purchase. Additionally, better data creates better maps so federal, state, and local funding can be deployed in appropriate locations to improve broadband infrastructure and provide customers with the speed and quality they need,” **said Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Executive Director of Southwest Colorado Council of Governments.**

“As an economic development planning agency with the responsibility of assisting with the cultivation of strategies to grow our rural economy, this bill would be helpful in both assessing the actual broadband capacity of an area by census block as opposed to general provider statements that are more designed in marketing their services. Of equal or more importance is the regulatory impact toward consumer protection in setting up accurate expectations of broadband service,” **said Kevin Wilkins, Executive Director, San Luis Valley Council of Governments.**

“With reliable, high-speed broadband becoming a necessity for modern life, it’s well past time to update how broadband services are reported and recorded at the federal level. The Broadband Accountability and Transparency Act of 2019 will establish a stronger process for reporting and recording existing broadband availability while providing much-needed accountability for self-reported data. Delta-Montrose Electric Association has spurred the deployment of broadband in Western Colorado and fully supports the Broadband Accountability and Transparency Act, because it will ultimately improve the quality of broadband for citizens throughout the nation,” **said Kent Blackwell, Chief Technical Officer, Delta-Montrose Electric Association.**

“The rural digital divide is real. It hurts students that can’t do their homework, our local clinics that can’t get the bandwidth to run their patient medical records, and in so many other ways. Rural access and speeds are uneven. Today, an anchor institution like the court house, and nearby neighborhoods, often have speeds that are the equivalent of dialup. We need accurate neighborhood level data to fix the growing rural digital divide. The Broadband Transparency and Accountability Act will help,” **said Paul Major, President & CEO, Telluride Foundation.**