

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
US House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
US House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
US House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
US House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Rankings Members:

On November 17th the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) sent the attached letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Communications and Technology Subcommittee regarding the hearing on draft legislation on pole attachments. The letter lists a number of serious concerns with the draft legislation.

To date, we have had multiple meetings with bipartisan committee staff, discussing ways to improve the language of the bill and address the concerns of America's electric cooperatives. These meetings have been productive, and we thank the Chairmen and Ranking Members for their willingness to engage with us in a productive and professional manner. As the Subcommittee prepares to mark up the draft bill on Wednesday, NRECA and the undersigned state associations of electric cooperatives want to reiterate our concerns with the draft. However, we recognize that it is a draft. We are continuing to work with the Committee and are confident that together we can ensure that the final bill achieves the goal of promoting broadband deployment without adversely impacting the rural cooperatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Cavey at brian.cavey@nreca.coop, Tammy Embrey at tammy.embrey@nreca.coop or Martha Duggan at Martha.duggan@nreca.coop.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives
Alaska Power Association
Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Golden State Power Cooperative
Colorado Rural Electric Association
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc.
Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities Association
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Indiana Electric Cooperatives
Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Michigan Electric Cooperative Association
Minnesota Rural Electric Association
Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, Inc.
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Montana Electric Cooperatives Association
Nebraska Rural Electric Association
Nevada Rural Electric Association
Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc.
South Dakota Rural Electric Association Inc.
Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association
Texas Electric Cooperatives
Utah Rural Electric Association
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association
Wyoming Rural Electric Association

CC:

The Hon. Joe Barton
The Hon. Ed Whitfield
The Hon. John Shimkus
The Hon. Joseph R. Pitts
The Hon. Tim Murphy
The Hon. Michael Burgess
The Hon. Marsha Blackburn

The Hon. Steve Scalise
The Hon. Bob Latta
The Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Hon. Gregg Harper
The Hon. Leonard Lance
The Hon. Brett Guthrie
The Hon. Pete Olson

The Hon. David McKinley
The Hon. Mike Pompeo
The Hon. Adam Kinzinger
The Hon. Morgan Griffith
The Hon. Gus Bilirakis
The Hon. Bill Johnson
The Hon. Billy Long
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The Hon. Larry Bucshon
The Hon. Bill Flores
The Hon. Susan Brooks
The Hon. Markwayne Mullin
The Hon. Richard Hudson
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The Hon. John Yarmulth
The Hon. Yvette D. Clarke
The Hon. David Loebsack
The Hon. Kurt Schrader
The Hon. Joseph P. Kennedy III
The Hon. Tony Cardenas