May 6, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-310 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Cartwright, and Ranking Member Aderholt:

In furtherance of our efforts to ensure the security of communications networks across the United States, we write to request consideration by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, and the full Committee on Appropriations, to provide at least $750 million in Fiscal Year 2022 funding for critical network security initiatives allowed under the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund, as authorized in the Utilizing Strategic Allied Telecommunications Act of 2020 (USA Telecommunications Act). The USA Telecommunications Act was included as part of H.R. 6395, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.”

The USA Telecommunications Act of 2020 established the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to

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support the promotion and deployment of Open Radio Access Network (Open RAN) 5G networks throughout the United States. This technology will be key for creating a safer and more secure communications system for hundreds of millions of people across the country who rely on the internet every day.

As the size, scale, and frequency of cyber incidents continue to increase, so too should our commitment to the goal of ensuring American communications networks are as safe and secure as possible. To that end, we request that the Committee on Appropriations provide at least $750 million in Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations for the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund to facilitate the promotion and deployment of more secure communications networking technology and equipment.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health