



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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Veterans' Affairs  
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Sports Development

JACOB C. ASHBY  
Assemblyman 107<sup>th</sup> District

PLEASE REPLY TO  
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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  
107<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



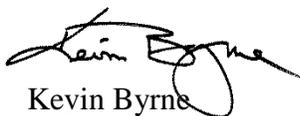
Will Barclay  
Assembly Minority Leader



Ken Blankenbush  
117<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Karl Brabenec  
98<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Kevin Byrne  
94<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Marjorie Byrnes  
133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



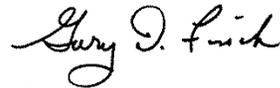
Clifford W. Crouch  
122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



Joe DeStefano  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



David DiPietro  
147<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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



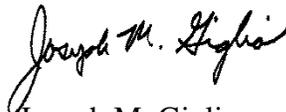
Michael Fitzpatrick  
8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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



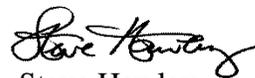
Andrew Garbarino  
7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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



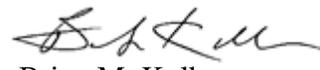
Andy Goodell  
150<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



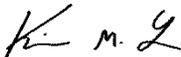
Steve Hawley  
139<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mark Johns  
135<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Brian M. Kolb  
131<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Kieran Michael Lalor  
105<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Peter Lawrence  
134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Mike LiPetri  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Brian Manktelow  
130<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Dave McDonough  
14<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Brian Miller  
101<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

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

Michael Montesano  
15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Angelo Morinello  
145<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mike Norris  
144<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Phil Palmesano  
132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Anthony Palumbo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Ed Ra  
19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mike Reilly  
62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

John Salka  
121<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Colin Schmitt  
99<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Doug Smith  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Robert Smullen  
118<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Daniel Stec  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Chris Tague  
102<sup>nd</sup> Assembly 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