

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

We are writing to you today as a coalition of organizations to request that you support and co-sponsor **HR 5639 – The Communications Jobs Training Act of 2018**.

This bipartisan legislation is designed to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide funding for job training to enhance communications tower service. Specifically, the bill would direct the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a grant program to make grants to community colleges, post-secondary vocational and technical schools and any organization that provides career and technical education to veterans to establish or expand job training programs for communications tower service, construction and maintenance. The legislation would authorize \$20 million per year in fiscal years 2019-2021.

Workforce development has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges confronting the industry. We believe strongly that expanding proper training will help power the nation's economic growth. Accordingly, it is imperative to promptly address the shortage of a properly trained and qualified workforce that must possess the diverse skill set necessary to produce the expansion of broadband, public safety and 5G coverage across North America, all while completing the repacking the broadcast television stations and facilitation of low-power and translator station moves.

The grant funding made available through this legislation will play a critical role in developing a pipeline of new workers as the industry completes the broadcast repack and prepares for substantially greater demand for communications tower services and related infrastructure deployments on the path to 5G and other new services. The provisions included in HR 5639 would allow our industry to attract, train and grow the next generation of communications tower technicians, enabling it to keep Americans connected to free, local broadcast programming, and will ultimately position the United States to emerge as the global 5G network leader.

Thank you for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

