



**Telecommunications Industry Association**

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June 21, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), writes to express concern about two amendments made in order by the House Rules Committee this week to H.R. 3055, the FY20 “minibus” appropriations bill. **These amendments would harm the important work of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).**

As the Energy and Commerce Committee well knows, NTIA serves a vital role in coordinating U.S. telecommunications policy in spectrum management, public safety, and other areas of national importance. Its work on spectrum policy and enabling auctions make it the rare government agency that directly turns a profit – of many orders of magnitude – for American taxpayers. Reducing its funding would be short-sighted and should be strongly opposed by this committee.

**Amendment No. 87** would decrease NTIA’s proposed budget by \$3.5 million to offset funding for “*third party data collection of reef fish in the South Atlantic.*”<sup>1</sup> NTIA’s total planned appropriation is only \$42.4 million, and any need for fish data collection surely cannot justify reducing its budget by such a significant amount. Indeed, just last year the Communications Subcommittee considered *increasing* NTIA’s authorization to \$50.8 million in recognition of the agency’s important work.

**Amendment No. 128** would require \$1 million to “be used for improving broadband mapping,” but does not provide any corresponding funding.<sup>2</sup> While the intention is laudable, Congress should not hard-wire appropriations in a manner that would reduce the already-limited funds available to the agency to execute its ongoing missions.

We request that you oppose these amendments and urge your colleagues to do likewise. For more information, please contact me at 703-907-7715 or by email at [dsrihari@tiaonline.org](mailto:dsrihari@tiaonline.org).

Sincerely,

/s/ Dileep Srihari

Dileep Srihari  
Senior Policy Counsel and Acting Head of Government Affairs  
Telecommunications Industry Association

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rules.house.gov/bill/116/hr-3055> (scroll down to Amendment No. 87).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* (scroll down to Amendment No. 128)