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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

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September 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Financial Services & General Government
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

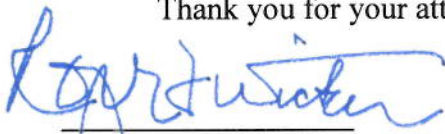
Dear Chairman Shelby and Subcommittee Chairman Kennedy:

Thank you for your leadership and efforts as you craft appropriations bills to fund the government for fiscal year 2020.

We are writing to express our concern about the inclusion of telecommunications policy provisions in Appropriations report language, in particular with regard to spectrum policy – a highly nuanced issue of fundamental importance to American economic leadership, national security, and the American consumer. We believe this issue is appropriately addressed by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the ordinary course of its legislative and oversight activities, rather than in report language for Appropriations bills. We believe spectrum policy should be established by the Commerce Committee after careful consideration, appropriate hearings, and with a reasonable opportunity for the public and those affected to provide relevant information to the Committee.

To facilitate this careful approach to telecommunications policy, we respectfully request removal of report language seeking to set policy or direct action by agencies within the Commerce Committee's jurisdiction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



John Thune
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, Innovation, and the Internet