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October 4, 2019

Via Email

Mr. Robert M. Hitt III, Secretary of Commerce
South Carolina Department of Commerce
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Efforts to support broadband internet access in South Carolina

Dear Secretary Hitt:

The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee has conducted a productive study of the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) and appreciates your participation in your role as chairman of its board of directors.

The topic of insufficient access to broadband internet in our state's rural areas came up several times during our discussions about RIA's work. As the Department of Commerce has in the past participated in related efforts, including the South Carolina Broadband Advisory Committee, I ask that you provide this Subcommittee with a brief summary of the department's recent, current, or upcoming efforts to support the expansion of broadband access in the state. Your response is respectfully requested by November 1, 2019.

Please feel free to include any additional information you believe would be helpful to the Subcommittee. Should you have any questions, please contact Committee staff. Thank you for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Hixon".

William M. "Bill" Hixon
Subcommittee Chair

cc: Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee Members