



November 28, 2016

BY EMAIL

Hon. Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
solutions2020@fcc.gov

Re: Submissions for Commissioner Clyburn's #Solutions2020 Call to Action Plan

Dear Commissioner Clyburn:

The Satellite Industry Association¹ ("SIA") supports the #Solutions2020 initiative and its pillars to achieve robust, affordable connectivity for all Americans. SIA is committed to ensuring that affordable broadband services can be accessed from every region of the country and that this connectivity will be available when needed most.

¹ SIA is a U.S.-based trade association providing representation of the leading satellite operators, service providers, manufacturers, launch services providers, and ground equipment suppliers. Since its creation twenty years ago, SIA has advocated on behalf of the U.S. satellite industry on policy, regulatory, and legislative issues affecting the satellite business. SIA Executive Members include: The Boeing Company; DIRECTV; EchoStar Corporation; Intelsat S.A.; Iridium Communications Inc.; Kratos Defense & Security Solutions; Ligado Networks; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Northrop Grumman Corporation; OneWeb; SES Americom, Inc.; Space Exploration Technologies Corp.; SSL; and ViaSat, Inc. SIA Associate Members include: ABS US Corp.; Artel, LLC; COMSAT Inc.; DigitalGlobe Inc.; DRS Technologies, Inc.; Eutelsat America Corp.; Global Eagle Entertainment; Glowlink Communications Technology, Inc.; Hughes; iDirect Government Technologies; Inmarsat, Inc.; Kymeta Corporation; L-3 Electron Technologies, Inc.; O3b Limited; Panasonic Avionics Corporation; Planet Labs Inc.; TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.; Telesat Canada; TrustComm, Inc.; Ultisat, Inc.; and XTAR, LLC.

Satellites provide ubiquitous access to even the most remote regions of the United States and at rates comparable to terrestrial. Today satellite delivers high-speed broadband to consumers, wherever they are, without requiring costly new infrastructure. Therefore, satellite broadband networks are an important tool for enabling complete national connectivity. Communities traditionally unserved by fiber, such as rural towns, trailer parks, and oil rigs, can obtain cost-effective access to robust broadband networks.

In addition, satellite networks provide needed resiliency to our national infrastructure, and enable the provision of important services, such as emergency response, e-health, e-government and e-education. Satellites provide direct end user connectivity, as well as backhaul and M2M. Through the provision of these complementary services, satellite networks perform an integral role in facilitating the demands placed on terrestrial networks and effectuating terrestrial generational upgrades.

To ensure that all communities in the United States have access to advanced, cost-effective broadband connectivity, the FCC must ensure its regulatory framework is technology neutral; this will enable the use of the most appropriate technology to meet the needs of each community. Technology neutrality is particularly important in areas such as access to spectrum resources, as well as to funding programs that have the goal of increasing connectivity. By facilitating access to these resources by all communications technologies, the FCC can assure that communities can be served by the most efficient and cost-effective technology. In this way, the marketplace will determine success.

Respectfully submitted,

SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

By: /s/ Tom Stroup

Tom Stroup
President
1200 18th Street, N.W., Suite 1001
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 503-1560