

Final Portfolio Project

Office of Congressman Steve Stivers

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Intern

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H.R. 4824 Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018**Sponsor:** John R. Curtis [R-UT-3]**Date of Introduction:** 01-18-18**Status:** Referred to Agriculture Committee/Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry**Current Co-Sponsors:** 9 Republicans 0 Democrats

Rep Buck, Ken [R-CO-4] - 1/18/2018

Rep Gianforte, Greg [R-MT] - 1/18/2018

Rep Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4] - 1/18/2018

Rep LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1] - 1/18/2018

Rep Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4] - 1/29/2018

Rep Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD] - 1/18/2018

Rep Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2] - 1/18/2018

Rep Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2] - 1/18/2018

Rep Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3] - 1/18/2018

Description: The Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018 performs three major actions: empowers states to speed up the process of bringing broadband to rural communities, makes it quicker and cheaper to install broadband, and helps economic development in rural communities. The bill remedies issues with installing broadband in rural areas by creating a Federal Permit Streamlining Project in each BLM office which will act through a memorandum of understanding with the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This will reduce redundancy in the permitting process thus alleviating barriers to rural internet access. It appears that no such legislation has been introduced previously but there is currently a companion bill in the senate (S.604). America's Internet published an article in favor of it, as they believe it will eliminate burdensome regulation that has hurt internet development in the U.S. The bill is also supported by the Rural Broadband Association as well as the Utah Education and Telehealth Network. The bill also received support from Derrick Owens of Advocates for Rural Broadband when he testified before HSBC subcommittees. There has been some minor news coverage of the bill mostly from outlets in Representative Curtis's district.

H.R. 3787 Small Entity Regulatory Relief Opportunity Act of 2017**Sponsor:** Robert E. Latta [R-OH-5]**Date of Introduction:** 09-14-17**Status:** Referred to Energy and Commerce Committee/Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**Current Co-Sponsors:** 2 Republicans 1 Democrat

Rep Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5] - 11/13/2017

Rep Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5] - 9/14/2017

Rep Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7] - 11/30/2017

Description: H.R. 3787 amends the Communication Act of 1934 to streamline the process for small entities seeking waiver petitions from regulation issued by the Federal Communications Commission while also requiring the Federal Communication Commission to defer the application of new regulations to small entities. Many small broadband providers struggle to comply with regulations handed down by the FCC that do not have as great an effect on large organizations. They are able to appeal these but often struggle to do so because the appeals process is so cumbersome. This bill would make the appeals process more straightforward while also helping regulations be more tailored to the size and goal of the entity. The bill enjoys support from the American Cable Association, Competitive Carriers Association, the Fiber Broadband Association, INCOMPAS, ITTA, the LPTV Spectrum Rights Coalition, NRECA, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, Rural Wireless Association, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, and WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband all of whom signed onto a letter in favor of the bill.

H.R. 4754 Change Order Transparency for Federal Contractors Act**Sponsor:** Don Bacon [R-NE-2]**Date of Introduction:** 01-10-18**Status:** Referred to House Committee on Small Business**Current Co-Sponsors:** 2 Republicans 2 Democrats

Rep Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6] - 2/23/2018

Rep Knight, Stephen [R-CA-25] - 1/10/2018

Rep Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5] - 1/10/2018

Rep Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7] - 1/10/2018

Description: H.R. 4745 aims to ease access of information about requests for equitable adjustments to a contract which are more commonly known as change orders. Currently, the process to receive a change is order is convoluted and time consuming which wastes contractors valuable time and resources. This legislation would require the contracting agency to provide details on their change order procedures and how it has performed with them in the past. This bill is primarily targeted toward construction contractors on federal projects. As these projects often require adjustments, it is extremely important that these processes be clear, open, and not cause delays. This bill will also help small contractors as it will give them more insight into the change order process, something that larger contractors with more resources and experience are able to more easily navigate. This will also help small businesses see how agencies have performed with past contracts and thus will help them decide if they want to bid for a job or not. News coverage has been limited on the bill; most of it has come from a press release from the sponsor's office. Thus far, a variety of industry groups have signed on to a letter in favor of the bill.

Job Creation, Competition, and Small Business' Role in the U.S. Economy**Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 11:00 in Rayburn 2360****U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee****Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH)****Witnesses****Mr. Steven H. Strongin**, Head, Global Investment Research Division, Goldman Sachs**Mr. JR Foster**, President and CEO, Robert Louis Group**Ms. Jessica Johnson-Cope**, President, Johnson-Security Bureau Inc.

The primary purpose of this hearing was to discuss Goldman-Sachs research on how access to capital affects small business, why access to capital in very urban and rural areas has been slow to recover, and also featured testimony from a graduate of Goldman-Sachs 10000 Small Businesses (10KSB) program that showed what private investment is available to small business owners. Mr. Strongin's testimony focused on the slow growth of small business since the recession and how access to capital and investment is a part of this trend. He stated that certain regulations targeted toward large entities often cause problems for small businesses that are not sure if and how they need to comply. He also spoke about the role of public investment in small business and how the Small Business Administration (SBA) could help. Mr. Foster's testimony focused on his experiences with the 10KSB program and how it helped him with his businesses. His business helps minority run businesses with their real estate brokerage and facility management needs while also helping small businesses find capital and debt financing. He spoke about his personal struggles as a minority business owner as well the struggles of other minority businesses he has helped and the need for a credit friendly national lending platform that will ease regulations and burdens on small business. Ms. Johnson-Cope's testimony focused on her experiences with the 10KSB program and how it helped her expand her family's security business and start a premium laundry service. She stated that two of her largest challenges are a lack of qualified members of the workforce and a lack of access to capital. She asked the committee to empower SBA loan programs and to also consider how federal contracting can be done to help small businesses.

Disconnected: Rural Broadband and the Business Case for Small Carriers**Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 10:00 in Rayburn 2360****U.S House of Representatives Small Business Committee and Subcommittees on Health and Technology and Agriculture, Energy, and Trade****Chairmen Steve Chabot, Rod Blum, and Amata Coleman Radewagen****Witnesses:****Ms. Erin Fitzgerald**, Regulatory Counsel, Rural Wireless Association, Inc.**Mr. Tim Donovan**, Senior Vice President, Legislative Affairs, Competitive Carriers Association**Mr. Paul Carliner**, Co-Founder, Bloosurf, LLC.**Mr. Derrick Owens**, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs, WTA -
Advocates for Rural Broadband

This hearing focused on the issues faced by small rural internet providers and what can be done to increase internet access in rural areas. It began with opening statements from chairmen Radewagen and Blum who spoke about challenges in their respective districts in regards to internet access and how a lack of it has hurt economic development. Ms. Fitzgerald spoke at length about regulatory challenges, lack of access to spectrum (the wavelength that information is transmitted on), issues with rural areas ability to use VoLTE service (as opposed to standard 2G and 3G networks), and various regulatory filings including one on hearing aid compatibility for headsets and networks. Mr. Donovan's testimony focused on government programs that had helped rural access including ones that increased capital and investment. He also spoke on issues relating to costs of regulation and focused on the costs of environmental impact studies and the importance of access to spectrum services. Mr. Carliner, an owner of a rural ISP, spoke about his experiences in the field and how public investment was necessary to support rural internet access. He supports customized solutions for small communities' internet issues, ensuring that the "last mile" problem is solved and that people are actually able to use internet in homes in businesses if the infrastructure is installed, regulations and policy that encourage ISPs to develop in rural areas, and finally a way to share information on cybersecurity between the federal government and ISPs. Mr. Owens's testimony had a similar tone and focus to the prior ones and he mostly focused on legislation that was currently under consideration.

Regulatory Reform and Rollback: The Effects On Small Business**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 11:00 in Rayburn 2360****U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee****Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH)****Witnesses:****Ms. Karen R. Harned**, Executive Director, NFIB Small Business Legal Center**Mr. Patrick Hedren**, Vice President, Labor, Legal & Regulatory Policy, National Association of Manufacturers**Mr. Randy Noel**, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders**Ms. Lisa Heinzerling**, Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., Professor of Law, Georgetown Law

This hearing consisted mostly of a broad overview of government regulation and how it impacts the small business community's ability to operate and innovate. It began with an opening statement from Chairman Chabot about various deregulation legislation the committee has worked toward as well as discussing President Trump's deregulation priorities including the "2 for 1" rule. Witnesses were then asked to give a five minute testimony. Ms. Harned focused on how deregulation has had a positive impact on paperwork reduction for small businesses and how the costs of regulation are not always made available to consumers. Mr. Hedron discussed overlap between regulation targeted at large business that often hurt small business. He stated that although reform was difficult, it was often worth it as evidenced by the increased optimism of NAM members in a recent survey. Mr. Noel spoke about regulation in the housing development sector. He stated that 25% of a cost of a new house can be traced back to regulation and that often developers are not informed of new regulatory issues until an inspector arrives at a site and issues a fine for noncompliance. Finally, Ms. Heinzerling testified about the public protections that regulations provide and she argued that President Donald J. Trump's deregulation plans were moving too fast and eliminating good regulation. This was followed by a statement from Ranking Member Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) who stated that regulations are needed to protect the public and that they have their place but that she was also concerned about the costs imposed on small businesses. She stated she was against the executive regulatory rollbacks.

Mr. Ryan Leavitt
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Congressman John R. Curtis [R-UT-3]

Mr. Leavitt is the staffer who handles internet issues for Congressman Curtis's office. He responded to me 6 minutes after I sent him my initial email. He attached a one pager of the bill which gave some basic information about what the bill hopes to accomplish. He also attached letters of support from various organizations including the NTCA and WTA-Rural Broadband Advocates. He stated that there were no organizations that were actively opposing the bill and that made no mention of any issues the office has encountered thus far. The senate companion bill (introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch [R-UT]) has also garnered support, notably from senators from largely rural states including Shelley Moore Capito [R-WV].

Mr. Kyle Noyes
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Don Bacon [R-NE-2]

Mr. Noyes is the staffer who handles contracting issues and small business for Congressman Bacon's office. He attached a letter to his email that a variety of major players in the industry had signed and indicated that there had been no lobbying against the bill. However, he did state that some government agencies might oppose the bill due to the burden of data collection and transparency. There is no "pay for" but the bill aims to reduce costs by limiting the amount of information required and only making the information available on request. He made no mention of any pitfalls the office had encountered or of a senate companion bill. They are hoping that the bill will be included in the FY19 NDAA and that it will be marked up soon.

Regulation is Killing Rural Internet and Our Small Businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of our nation's economy. When they are held back, innovation is slowed and the nation's progress and prosperity is reduced. That is why I have made it one of my top priorities in the 115th congress to fight against excessive regulations that hurt Ohio 15's small businesses.

One industry that has been slowed by regulation is internet service. Being able to access fast and reliable internet is no longer a luxury. Rather, it is a necessity for a businesses to maintain an online profile, stay in contact with customers, and trade information. In today's fast paced environment, internet access is key to a business's success.

This is why I have decided to cosponsor H.R. 4824 The Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018 and H.R. 3787 The Small Entity Regulatory Relief Opportunity Act of 2017. Far too many rural areas do not have access to reliable broadband internet. Broadband equipment is already difficult to install in rural areas; providers have to cope with diverse terrain in remote places that are difficult to access. This already challenging process is made even more difficult by excessive regulation which is something these two bills will change.

H.R. 4824 which is sponsored by Representative John Curtis [R-UT-3] will eliminate redundancies in the permitting process. Currently, internet service providers (ISP) must get a large number of permits from a variety of federal government agencies. This bill will create a Federal Permit Streamlining Project to eliminate these redundancies while also giving the states more say in the regulatory process. This excessive permitting causes delays for ISPs which increases the already high costs of installing internet infrastructure. This hurts ISPs desire to invest in rural internet. Streamlining the permitting process will open the doors for more outside investment in internet for rural areas and thus give our small businesses the tools they need to thrive.

H.R. 3787 which is sponsored by Representative Robert E. Latta [R-OH-5] streamlines the appeals process for small ISPs that cannot handle regulatory burdens as well as large organizations. The appeals process is extremely convoluted which is not a huge issue for larger

organizations but smaller organizations often struggle to understand it. This bill also includes provisions that will help make regulations be more tied to the size of an ISP.

I am proud to be fighting for internet infrastructure and small businesses in Ohio's 15th district. If there is anyway I can be of assistance please contact me at my Wilmington office at (937)-283-7049, my Lancaster office at (740)-654-2654, my Hilliard office at (614)-771-4968, or at my Washington office at (202)-225-2015. For more information please visit my website at stivers.house.gov.

Tweets:

- Time to bring OH15 into the digital era! That's why I'm co-sponsoring HR 4824 to ease the permit process for rural internet infrastructure.
- #Regulation has held back internet development in #OH15. I've co-sponsored HR 3787 to ease burdens on small rural internet contractors.
- #OH15 Small Businesses deserve a fair shot at federal contracts. That's why I've co-sponsored HR 4754 to make the process more transparent.

Facebook Posts:

- In the 21st century, internet access is key to succeeding as a small business. That's why I am co-sponsoring H.R. 4824 and H.R. 3787. H.R. 4824 will streamline the permitting process to install rural broadband which as it stands can add two years to the process of implementing necessary infrastructure. H.R. 3787 eases regulatory burdens on small internet service providers and aids them in navigating other regulatory challenges.
- Small businesses are often underrepresented in federal contract filings. They do not have the resources or information that large firms have when it comes to making bids. H.R. 4754, which I have cosponsored, will close this gap by requiring agencies to increase their transparency in the bidding process and make available information about their past performances with contractors.

#OH15 small businesses have struggled thanks to a lack of reliable internet structures. I believe that #MainSt can be just as innovative as Silicon Valley when given the right tools which is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 4824 The Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018 to remove burdensome regulations on rural internet providers.