

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

NOTICE OF HEARING

March 6, 2017

10:00 A.M., 2360 Rayburn House Office Building

**TO: Members, Subcommittees on Health and Technology and
Agriculture, Energy, and Trade**

FROM: Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen and Rod Blum, Chairmen

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The Committee on Small Business Subcommittees on Health and Technology and Agriculture, Energy, and Trade will meet for a joint hearing titled, “Disconnected: Rural Broadband and the Business Case for Small Carriers.” The hearing is scheduled to begin at **10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building.**

This hearing will examine the disparities between large, nationwide carriers and small, rural carriers that contribute to the urban and rural digital divide. Rural communities depend on small carriers to provide internet and telecommunications service where nationwide providers may choose not to deploy broadband, or provide minimal service. Deploying broadband in these high-cost areas requires significant investment in capital, time, and resources. The cost of investment, coupled with challenges unique to small, rural carriers in offsetting costs creates barriers to competition and sustainability for small and rural carriers in the mobile wireless marketplace. This hearing will focus on challenges inherent in the current regulatory and operational schemes that limit the ability of small carriers to deploy broadband in rural America.

A staff briefing will be held on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

If you or your staff have questions, please contact Vivian Ling, Counsel for the Committee, at 202-225-5821.