



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Derrick Owens
202-548-0202, derrick@w-t-a.org**

**WTA Applauds House Passage of
Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 23, 2017) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband applauds House passage of H.R. 460, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act, introduced by Representatives David Young (R-IA) and Peter Welch (D-VT). The bill will help ensure that telephone calls to rural areas are completed as required by law.

“We’re pleased that Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden decided to bring this bill to the floor at the beginning of the 115th Congress,” said Derrick Owens, WTA’s Vice President of Government Affairs. “This legislation is a priority for our member companies and will complement the work the FCC has already done on fixing the rural call completion problem. We appreciate the bipartisan work that Representatives Young, Welch and others have done to highlight this important issue.”

H.R. 460 requires the FCC to establish call completion standards for intermediary providers, that at times, do not route calls properly to rural areas. It forbids originating carriers from using intermediary providers that the FCC has designated as not meeting the agency’s standards. This bill passed the House last year, and though similar legislation was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee, it did not come to the Senate floor for a vote before the 114th Congress adjourned.

###

WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents more than 350 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA’s members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit www.w-t-a.org.