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**WTA Supports Introduction of Legislation to Require FCC to Address USF
Contributions Modernization**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 22, 2021) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband supports bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6314, introduced by Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO) and five of his colleagues in the House of Representatives that requires the FCC to complete a study and rulemaking on modernizing the Universal Service Fund (USF) contributions system.

“The USF contributions mechanism is a relic of the ‘96 Telecom Act, and is based on revenue from long-distance telephone service. There isn’t anyone who doesn’t think it’s antiquated,” said Derrick Owens, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs. “Although the contribution factor dipped a bit this past quarter, it still remains close to 30% and this is not sustainable. We encourage the FCC and Congress to work together to find a solution so that contributions to the Fund are spread equitably among those who benefit from the broadband network. We applaud this bipartisan group of Representatives for their efforts in spurring the FCC to action.”

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WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents more than 360 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.