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**WTA Applauds Introduction of Bill
to Exempt Broadband Grants from Taxation**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 7, 2022) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband applauds Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Terri Sewell (D-AL), and Drew Ferguson (R-GA) for introducing the bipartisan Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act, legislation exempting broadband grant funding from specific federal programs from taxation.

“The federal government is making an enormous investment in rural broadband, but the effects of the tax code make it harder for the small, locally-based broadband providers we represent to maximize the amount of funding going to build out the network,” said Derrick B. Owens, Senior Vice President for Government and Industry Affairs for WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband. “We applaud Representatives Panetta and Kelly for introducing the House version of the bipartisan Broadband Grant Tax Treatment Act, which would streamline the tax code so that every broadband grant dollar goes toward building broadband networks and extending service to those who don’t have it. WTA strongly urges Congressional leadership to address this issue quickly.”

This bipartisan legislation complements S. 5021, identical legislation introduced in September by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV).

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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.