

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications Technology Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Vice Chairman Lee Terry (R-Neb.) released the following joint statement on the "America's Broadband Connectivity Plan":

"We are encouraged by the growing consensus among stakeholders as developed in the 'America's Broadband Connectivity Plan' filed with the Federal Communications Commission today, and we hope that consensus will continue to grow. The Universal Service Fund and the intercarrier compensation regime are broken in many ways and both need to be fixed. We urge the FCC to use the momentum this proposal has created to complete the reform process this fall.

"The stakes are high in rural districts across America where access to affordable phone and broadband service is essential for economic growth, job creation and the quality of rural healthcare and education.

"All those who have an interest in reforming the USF and intercarrier compensation should weigh the proposal carefully and consider using it as a basis for continued dialogue and discussion with the FCC."