



*All About Florida*

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

Earlier this year, FAC's membership voted to make improved broadband mapping a priority and joined their colleagues at the National Association of Counties in urging Congress to support improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies. We believe that H.R. 4229, the Broadband DATA Act, accomplishes this and would appreciate your support.

FAC's membership has also adopted a guiding principle supporting efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders. FAC's position is provider and technology neutral, generally encouraging incumbent providers to extend service to underserved areas. The primary barrier to developing successful strategies to incentivize service in Florida's rural areas is the present inability to determine with any degree of certainty where service exists and where it is lacking.

In what appears to be a common observation, FAC's members report that existing maps grossly overstate the availability and quality of broadband service that they experience in Florida's less populated areas. We join the numerous other entities that believe this inaccurate data has led to overbuilding in some places, while allowing other areas to remain unserved or underserved. Florida's problem is compounded because we lack a state-level broadband coordinating entity, such as those in other states that are responsible for supplementing Federal mapping efforts and pursuing funding opportunities. Though we continue to seek state support for broadband expansion, at the present time Florida's local leaders are working to fill the void while recognizing that progress is likely impossible without adequate mapping.

If the Florida Association of Counties can be of assistance, please contact Laura Youmans, at (850) 922-4300 or at [lyoumans@fl-counties.com](mailto:lyoumans@fl-counties.com).

Respectfully,

Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Buchanan:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Castor:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
United States House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Crist:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Val Demings  
United States House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Demings:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Ted Deutch  
United States House of Representatives  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Deutch:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
United States House of Representatives  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC rick

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Neal Dunn  
United States House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Dunn:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
United States House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Frankel:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
United States House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Gaetz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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December 11, 2019

The Honorable Alcee Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Hastings:

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**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Al Lawson  
United States House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Lawson:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

Earlier this year, FAC's membership voted to make improved broadband mapping a priority and joined their colleagues at the National Association of Counties in urging Congress to support improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies. We believe that H.R. 4229, the Broadband DATA Act, accomplishes this and would appreciate your support.

FAC's membership has also adopted a guiding principle supporting efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders. FAC's position is provider and technology neutral, generally encouraging incumbent providers to extend service to underserved areas. The primary barrier to developing successful strategies to incentivize service in Florida's rural areas is the present inability to determine with any degree of certainty where service exists and where it is lacking.

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If the Florida Association of Counties can be of assistance, please contact Laura Youmans, at (850) 922-4300 or at [lyoumans@fl-counties.com](mailto:lyoumans@fl-counties.com).

Respectfully,

Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





*All About Florida*

**NICK MADDOX**  
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Brian Mast  
United States House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Mast:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Respectfully,

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FAC Public Policy Director





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**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
United States House of Representatives  
114 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy  
United States House of Representatives  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Murphy:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Bill Posey  
United States House of Representatives  
2150 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Posey:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Francis Rooney  
United States House of Representatives  
120 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Rooney:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
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*All About Florida*

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HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable John Rutherford  
United States House of Representatives  
1711 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Rutherford:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Donna Shalala  
United States House of Representatives  
1320 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Shalala:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Darren Soto  
United States House of Representatives  
1507 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Soto:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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FAC Public Policy Director





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Ross Spano  
United States House of Representatives  
224 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Spano:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Greg Steube  
United States House of Representatives  
521 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Steube:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Michael Waltz  
United States House of Representatives  
216 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Waltz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

Earlier this year, FAC's membership voted to make improved broadband mapping a priority and joined their colleagues at the National Association of Counties in urging Congress to support improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies. We believe that H.R. 4229, the Broadband DATA Act, accomplishes this and would appreciate your support.

FAC's membership has also adopted a guiding principle supporting efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders. FAC's position is provider and technology neutral, generally encouraging incumbent providers to extend service to underserved areas. The primary barrier to developing successful strategies to incentivize service in Florida's rural areas is the present inability to determine with any degree of certainty where service exists and where it is lacking.

In what appears to be a common observation, FAC's members report that existing maps grossly overstate the availability and quality of broadband service that they experience in Florida's less populated areas. We join the numerous other entities that believe this inaccurate data has led to overbuilding in some places, while allowing other areas to remain unserved or underserved. Florida's problem is compounded because we lack a state-level broadband coordinating entity, such as those in other states that are responsible for supplementing Federal mapping efforts and pursuing funding opportunities. Though we continue to seek state support for broadband expansion, at the present time Florida's local leaders are working to fill the void while recognizing that progress is likely impossible without adequate mapping.

If the Florida Association of Counties can be of assistance, please contact Laura Youmans, at (850) 922-4300 or at [lyoumans@fl-counties.com](mailto:lyoumans@fl-counties.com).

Respectfully,

Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





*All About Florida*

**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
United States House of Representatives  
1114 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
United States House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Webster:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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Davin J. Suggs  
FAC Public Policy Director





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**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Frederica Wilson  
United States House of Representatives  
2445 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Ted Yoho  
United States House of Representatives  
1730 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Yoho:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we ask your support of H.R. 4229 the Broadband DATA Act. Like many states, Florida lacks adequate broadband service in many of its rural areas. In Florida, this so-called "digital divide" has exacerbated the rural areas' already slow recovery from the great recession. Several years ago, Florida's rural county commissioners identified broadband as an infrastructure priority necessary to support their efforts to provide sustainable economic development, education, and healthcare in their communities.

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