



Bipartisan Policy Center

Investing in Broadband to Narrow the Digital Divide

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

1:30-2:30 p.m. ET

PANELISTS



Shirley Bloomfield
*CEO of NTCA, The Rural
Broadband Association*

[@sbloomfield15](#)

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Shirley Bloomfield is chief executive officer of NTCA –The Rural Broadband Association, the premier association representing nearly 850 independent telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. With more than 30 years of experience representing the country’s smallest telecom operators, Bloomfield is an expert on the role of federal communications policies in sustaining the vitality of rural and remote communities and the benefits rural broadband networks bring to millions of American families, businesses, and the national economy



Brett Kilbourne
*Senior VP of Policy and General
Counsel, UTC*

Brett Kilbourne is the Utilities Technology Council's General Counsel and Vice President of Policy, the Washington-based association representing vital energy and water utilities on their mission-critical technologies by driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and influencing public policy.

In this role, Mr. Kilbourne provides legal guidance to utilities on telecommunications issues both pending before federal and state agencies and being considered in Congress.

He received his Juris Doctor degree from Catholic University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the South. Mr. Kilbourne is licensed to practice law in the state of Maryland and is a member of the American Bar Association and the Federal Communications Bar Association.



Michael O'Rielly
Former FCC Commissioner

Michael O'Rielly was nominated for a seat on the Federal Communications Commission by President Barack Obama on August 1, 2013, and was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on October 29, 2013. He was sworn into office on November 4, 2013. On January 29, 2015, he was sworn into office for a new term, following his re-nomination by the President and confirmation by the United States Senate and served through December 11, 2020.

Prior to joining the agency Commissioner O'Rielly served as a Policy Advisor in the Office of the Senate Republican Whip, led by U.S. Senator John Cornyn, since January 2013. He worked in the Republican Whip's Office since 2010, as an Advisor from 2010 to 2012 and Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director from 2012 to 2013 for U.S. Senator Jon Kyl.

He previously worked for the Republican Policy Committee in the U.S. Senate as a Policy Analyst for Banking, Technology, Transportation, Trade, and Commerce issues from 2009 to 2010. Prior to this, Commissioner O'Rielly worked in the Office of U.S. Senator John Sununu, as Legislative Director from 2007 to 2009, and Senior Legislative Assistant from 2003 to 2007. Before his tenure as a Senate staffer, he served as a Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the United States House of Representatives from 1998 to 2003, and Telecommunications Policy Analyst from 1995 to 1998.

He began his career as a Legislative Assistant to U.S. Congressman Tom Bliley from 1994 to 1995.

Commissioner O'Rielly received his B.A. from the University of Rochester.



Jay Schwarz
*Vice President of Public Policy,
Comcast*

Jay A. Schwarz is Vice President – Global Public Policy at Comcast NBCUniversal where he focuses on broadband matters at the federal, state, and local levels. Previously he held roles at the Federal Communications Commission in the Chairman’s office, the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Office of Strategic Planning. Jay holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh as well as degrees in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University.
