



Dupont Summit 2017

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

December 1, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

Presentation

“Opportunity for All: Equitable Access to Broadband”

Daily life and opportunities of all kinds are dependent on access to fast and reliable internet access. But a significant part of the country still lacks high-speed broadband and this is especially true in lower-income and rural areas. Twenty-two million people lack access and over 73 million people live in neighborhoods where in-home broadband subscription rates fall below 40 percent. What public policy can help propel us towards robust online access for all?

This session will begin with a summary of the state of national broadband access with special attention on the areas and populations of greatest need. Then we will discuss various policy initiatives or possibilities focused on equitable access to broadband active in the 115th Congress or Trump Administration or may become active in 2018. These issues include rural broadband, net neutrality, the large infrastructure bill, the Federal Communications Commission’s universal service programs and Lifeline program, TV white spaces and other ideas on different uses of spectrum, and developments at the local or state level with national implications. The specific topics discussed in the session will depend on what’s most important at the time of the Summit.

The session concludes with an examination of how to move ahead on these policy issues, discussed in the larger context of the policy ecosystem. Thus, we’ll talk about the roles of academia, advocates, government officials, the media, and other stakeholders and how we can work together to move towards more effective public policy making.

Speakers

Alan S. Inouye, *Director, Public Policy, American Library Association*

Jon Peha, *Professor, Department of Engineering & Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University*

Ellen Satterwhite, *Vice President, Glen Echo Group*