



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TATNALL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR
WILLIAM PENN STREET, DOVER, DE 19901

JACK A. MARKELL
GOVERNOR

PHONE: 302-744-4101
FAX: 302-739-2775

October 7, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Wheeler,

Thank you for your efforts to try to improve wireless and wireline broadband access throughout the country. I write to you today in regards to the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CFNPR) on business data services (BDS). I wanted to emphasize that as this process develops a new regulatory framework for BDS, it is important to utilize accurate and comprehensive data regarding pricing and availability of broadband within a given geographic area to inform the rulemaking process and ensure that private investment in broadband infrastructure remains strong.

By utilizing appropriate data, the commission would be ensuring it is properly measuring the level of competition for BDS within individual markets. The goal of limiting monopolistic practices is an important one, but it must be coupled with a smart strategy to properly identify when such conditions exist, and to encourage significant levels of additional investment in broadband technologies. To fail to do so risks a solution that is counterproductive to our shared mission of increased broadband access for our citizens.

Rural communities like those found in the parts of Delaware depend on robust levels of investments from private firms in order to enhance their ability to access the broadband networks upon which much of the 21st century economy is being built. I urge you to ensure that future rules incentivize robust investments in expanding access to broadband communications.

It is my belief that the best decisions can only be made when a wide range of quality data is used to inform the process under which the decision is made. I urge you to use any and all of the most accurate data being made available to you.

Sincerely,

Jack Markell

Jack A. Markell