

KENNETH A. STEWART

Oct. 11, 201

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply to Comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council Regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund WC Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

In reply to comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council on Sept. 19, 2019, please accept this letter as support of the comments and how they would impact our Woodsfield community located in Monroe County.

I previously worked with Buckeye Hills Regional Council and live and worked in the greater 8-county region of Southeastern Ohio seeing first-hand the impacts of the digital divide to small businesses, community entities, our schools and more.

Appalachia is a wonderful place to call “home.” However, the absence of reliable, high-capacity broadband impacts us all. We believe, with the FCC’s rule changes, we just might see progress in this area! If you keep doing what you’ve been doing, you’ll keep getting what you’ve been getting! Let’s try a change in the process for mapping and for funding to allow for real change.

Carefully consider subscription milestones due to high poverty rates and higher numbers of senior citizens with a lower benchmark percentage. The 70% suggested subscription assumption partnered with previous reserve pricing would once again limit bidder interest for providers in our Appalachian region and therefore, no progress will be made.

Fixed wireless options do not offer a solution for 100% coverage due to the combination of terrain and foliage cover. While many areas of our state and nation are discussing 5G, in Appalachia we are saying just give us reliable, affordable 25MB service!

Thank you for your consideration of the many technical recommendations in the Buckeye Hills Regional Council’s comments regarding making the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund a realistic “opportunity” for our part of Ohio!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stewart', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Kenneth A. Stewart